

On Top Of The News Email:news@arubatoday.com website: www.arubatoday.com Tel:+297 582-7800 Thursday, November 14, 2013

DEMOCRATS DISSENTING

ASHLEY PARKER

MICHAEL D. SHEAR

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WASHINGTON - Anxious congressional Democrats are threatening to abandon President Barack Obama on a central element of his signature health care law, voicing increasing support for proposals that would allow Americans to retain the health insurance coverage they are losing because of the Affordable Care Act.

The dissent comes as a vote looms Friday in the Republican-controlled House on a bill that would allow Americans to keep their existing health cover-



Todd Park, previous chief technology officer at the Health and Human Services Department, testifies on Capitol Hill in Washington, Wednesday, Nov. 13, 2013.

(AP Photo/J. Applewhite)

age through 2014 without penalties. The measure, drafted by Rep. Fred Upton, R-Mich., the chairman of the Energy and Commerce Committee, is opposed by the White House, which argues that it would severely undermine the Affordable Care Act by allowing insurance companies to continue to sell health coverage that does not meet the higher standard of Obama's health care law.

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Mayor Rob Ford, left, confronts Councillor Denzil Minnan-Wong at city council in Toronto on Wednesday, Nov. 13, 2013. Almost every member of Toronto's City Council stood up and asked Mayor Rob Ford to take a leave of absence during a city council meeting Wednesday after he admitted smoking crack last week.

(AP Photo/The Canadian Press, Nathan Denette)

ROB GILLIES

Associated Press

TORONTO (AP) — Toronto Mayor Rob Ford admitted during a heated City Council debate Wednesday that he bought illegal drugs while in office, but adamantly refused to step down despite calls from nearly every councilor to take a leave of absence and get help.

"I'm most definitely keeping this job," the 44-year-

old Ford said, insisting he was "a positive role model for kids."

The mayor made the admission under questioning by a former ally, Councilor Denzil Minnan-Wong. Ford publicly acknowledged last week that he smoked crack cocaine while in a "drunken stupor" last year, but his comments Wednesday marked the first time he admitted buying illegal drugs.

Ford paused for a long time after Minnan-Wong asked him if he had bought illicit narcotics in the past two years.

Then he replied, "Yes I have."

"I understand the embarrassment that I have caused. I am humiliated by it," Ford said.

But he then turned defiant, saying he was not an addict and rebuffing suggestions from council members

that he seek help.

"I am not leaving here," Ford said. "I'm going to sit here and going to attend every meeting."

Moments earlier, all but two of the 43 councilors present for the debate voted to accept an open letter asking Ford to step aside. Most of them also stood up to urge the mayor to take a leave of absence.

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Dutch royal couple visits the island of St. Maarten

JUDY FITZPATRICK
Associated Press

PHILIPSBURG, St. Maarten

(AP) — Hundreds of people in St. Maarten greeted Dutch King Willem-Alexander and his wife, Queen Maxima, on Wednesday during their first visit to the Dutch Caribbean island since becoming new monarchs.

The two expected to meet with local government officials as part of a weeklong tour of six islands with ties to the Netherlands.

The couple waved to a crowd gathered behind barricades at the main government building in the capital of Philipsburg, where they were greeted by children clutching orange flags and wearing paper crowns on their heads.

“We came here to see our new king,” said Elvia Guy, a retired government

worker. “It’s very important to be here.”

Willem-Alexander became the new Dutch monarch on April 30 after his mother, former Queen Beatrix, abdicated after 33 years on the throne.

Mariette Schrijvers, a 58-year-old teacher from Holland, said she would like to see Dutch officials visit St. Maarten more often, saying the relationship on both sides could be warmer.

“The crown can also get to know more about education, medical care and the physically challenged in St. Maarten during their visits,” she said.

The couple is expected to also visit Saba, St. Eustatius, Bonaire, Curacao and Aruba.

The Dutch colonized the islands in the 17th century, and they once formed part of the Netherlands Antilles.



King Willem-Alexander of the Netherlands, center, and Queen Maxima, right, greet students upon their arrival to Milton Peters College in Philipsburg, St. Maarten, Wednesday, Nov. 13, 2013. The Dutch Royals are on an official tour to the Caribbean territories of the Kingdom of the Netherlands.

(AP Photo/Judy Fitzpatrick)

In 2010, St. Maarten and Curacao followed Aruba’s lead and obtained greater power of government and began collecting their own

tax revenues.

Meanwhile, the smaller islands of Saba, St. Eustatius and Bonaire became Dutch municipalities.

The islands’ people are Dutch nationals, and Willem-Alexander is their head of state, overseeing foreign affairs and defense. □



King Willem-Alexander of the Netherlands, second from left, reviews the honor guard during his welcome ceremony in Philipsburg, St. Maarten, Wednesday, Nov. 13, 2013.

(AP Photo/Judy Fitzpatrick)

Hawaii governor signs off on state gay marriage bill

OSKAR GARCIA

Associated Press

HONOLULU (AP) — Hawaii's governor signed a bill Wednesday legalizing gay marriage in the state that kicked off a national discussion of the issue more than two decades ago.

Now the island chain is positioning itself for an increase in tourism as visitors arrive to take advantage of the new law, which takes effect Dec. 2.

"In Hawaii, we believe in fairness, justice and human equality," Gov. Neil Abercrombie said Tuesday after the state Senate passed the bill. "Today, we celebrate our diversity defining us rather than dividing us."

Hawaii's gay marriage debate began in 1990 when two women applied for a marriage license, leading to a court battle and a 1993 state Supreme Court decision that said their rights to equal protection were violated by not letting them marry.

That helped lead Congress to pass the federal Defense of Marriage Act in 1996, which denied federal benefits to gay couples. The U.S. Supreme Court struck down part of the act this year, declaring unconstitutional a provision restricting the words "marriage" and "spouse" to apply only to heterosexual unions.

The decision led Abercrombie to call a special session that produced Hawaii's gay marriage law.

The law allows gay couples living in Hawaii, and tourists from other states, to marry in the state. Another 14 states and the District of Columbia already allow same-sex marriage. President Barack Obama, who grew up in Hawaii, praised passage of the state's bill, saying the affirmation of freedom and equality makes the country stronger.

An estimate from a University of Hawaii researcher says gay marriage will boost tourism by \$217 million over the next three years, as Hawaii becomes a destination for couples in other states. □

3 shot outside US school; drug link probed

JOE MANDAK

KEVIN BEGOS

Associated Press

PITTSBURGH (AP) — Three high school students heading to their vehicle after classes ended were shot Wednesday afternoon, and police investigating whether the shooting was drug-related brought six people in for questioning, school and police officials said.

The three teenagers were shot outside Brashear High School in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, as they walked to a vehicle they'd all taken to school earlier in the day, school district spokes-

woman Ebony Pugh said. Nearby residents said they heard seven or eight shots. The wounds of the victims, all boys, appeared to be non-life-threatening, both Pugh and police spokeswoman Diane Richard said, though their descriptions of the wounds differed slightly.

Pugh said two students were grazed in the head and one was shot in both the foot and arm. Richard said one was grazed in the neck and shoulder, but not the head.

Police believe the shooting might stem from a drug-related fight between some

students last month, Richard said. She didn't immediately provide more details.

Six people were brought in for questioning, Pittsburgh public safety director Michael Huss said about two hours after the shooting. Police wouldn't say whether they're also students, and Richard said they're not suspects or necessarily going to be charged.

None of the victims immediately spoke or cooperated with police, Richard said.

All were listed in good to stable condition at city hospitals, she said. Two are 17

and one is 16.

The student who was shot in the head was found inside the school, though that's because he "made his way back to the school, and was pulled back inside by one of the administrators," Richard said.

She stressed, "There was no shooting at Brashear school. ... The shooting did not happen in the school."

Brashear is a high school with about 1,400 students and 100 faculty. The school was locked down briefly, though students were released to their parents about 90 minutes after the shooting. □



A Pittsburgh Police K-9 officer comes out of the woods near the scene where three students were shot outside a Pittsburgh high school Wednesday Nov. 13, 2013. Police were searching for at least one gunman in some nearby woods and the neighborhood surrounding the school, school and police officials said.

(AP Photo/Gene J. Puskar)

Court upholds US man's terrorism conviction

BOSTON (AP) — A federal appeals court upheld a man's 2011 conviction of trying to help al-Qaida, saying Wednesday that the trial court balanced national security concerns and constitutional freedoms in an emotionally charged case. Tarek Mehanna received a fair trial when he was convicted of four terror-related charges and three charges of lying to authorities, a three-judge panel of the 1st U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals found.

Mehanna was sentenced to 17 1/2 years in federal prison, which the court also upheld.

"Terrorism is the modern-day equivalent of the bu-

bonic plague: It is an existential threat," the court said, adding that the case required the trial court "to patrol a fine line between national security concerns and forbidden encroachments on constitutionally protected freedoms of speech and association."

Prosecutors said during Mehanna's trial that he traveled to Yemen for training in a terrorist camp and intended to go to Iraq to fight U.S. soldiers. When that failed, they said, he returned to the United States and disseminated materials online promoting violent jihad.

Mehanna's lawyers said he didn't provide any tangible

support to al-Qaida, and his online activities were protected free speech.

Among the evidence challenged in Mehanna's appeal, argued before the appeals judges in July, were terrorism-related images that prosecutors introduced to show Mehanna's beliefs.

Mehanna's appeal attorney Sabin Willett said prosecutors prejudiced the jury with 28 images of the World Trade Center in flames on Sept. 11, 2001, and terrorism-related videos, as well as repeated references to Osama bin Laden.

A message was left for Willett on Wednesday.

The appeals court agreed

with prosecutors' argument that the use of the images and video was justified. The court acknowledged "terrorism-related evidence is often emotionally charged," but said "much of this emotional overlay is directly related to the nature of the crimes."

"Cases like this one present a formidable challenge to the parties and to the trial court: The charged crimes are heinous, the evidentiary record is vast, the legal issues are sophisticated, and the nature of the charges ensures that any trial will be electric. In this instance, all concerned rose to meet this formidable challenge," the court said. □

Democrats threaten to abandon Obama

Continued from front

But a growing number of House Democrats, reflecting a strong political backlash to the rollout of the health care law, are warning the White House that they might support the measure if the administration does not provide a strong alternative argument. The approaching House vote is shaping up as an important test for both the health measure and the unity that Democratic leaders have so far been

by the new law.

"I'm frustrated in how it rolled out, and I let them know in no uncertain terms," said Rep. Mike Doyle, D-Pa. "The point I was making in caucus to the administration is don't give us this techo-babble that you're going to do some administrative fix down the road. There's a bill being put on the floor on Friday."

The overall message of the meeting, said several attendees, was that the White House and the House

would allow people to keep their current health insurance permanently, is also drawing support in the Senate under an effort led by Sen. Mary L. Landrieu, D-La. Landrieu said she remained committed to her bill, despite resistance from the White House. But she drew a distinction between her plan - which she said would maintain the key provisions of the Affordable Care Act - and those offered by Republicans that would dismantle the law, like the one intro-



Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid of Nev. fends off questions about the slow start for the Affordable Care Act on Capitol Hill in Washington.

(AP Photo/J. Scott Applewhite)

able to maintain around the health law despite a fierce Republican attack against it.

In a closed-door meeting Wednesday of House Democrats and White House officials, tensions flared as several lawmakers upbraided the administration, saying that the president had put Democrats in a tough political position by wrongly promising consumers that they could keep their existing health care plans. In fact, hundreds of thousands of Americans have received cancellation notices from their insurers because their health care coverage does not meet the minimum standards dictated

Democratic leadership have until Friday to come up with a satisfactory alternative, or House Democrats might be forced to support Upton's bill, which has two Democratic co-sponsors: Reps. John Barrow of Georgia and Mike McIntyre of North Carolina, who represent more conservative districts.

"I think the Upton bill is terrible, but we need something else to vote for in order to keep our word to the American people," Doyle added. "We told people in those plans that they were grandfathered in, and if they wanted to stay in them, they could, and we need to honor that."

A similar proposal, which

duced in the House by Upton.

"That bill guts the Affordable Care Act. It does not fix it," she said. "It guts it, and I don't support it and would urge the Democrats in the House not to support it. My bill is not meant to undermine the Affordable Care Act; it's meant to strengthen it."

She expressed confidence that more Democrats would sign on to her plan. "Every day I think we'll pick up co-sponsors," she said, pointing to Sen. Dianne Feinstein of California, who said Tuesday that she was on board. On Wednesday, Sen. Jeff Merkley, D-Ore., also signed on to her plan as a co-sponsor. □

Kerry: New Iran sanctions could hinder nuclear talks

WASHINGTON (AP) — Secretary of State John Kerry warned Congress Wednesday against hurting a historic opportunity for a nuclear pact with Iran by pressing ahead with new sanctions while international negotiators seek to prevent Tehran from being able to assemble an atomic weapons arsenal. Kerry said the United States and other world powers are united behind an offer they presented to Iranian negotiators in Geneva last week. But he said new action now from U.S. lawmakers could shatter an international coalition made up of countries with interests as divergent as France, Russia and China, endangering hopes for a peaceful end to the decade-long nuclear standoff with the Islamic republic.

The countries worry that Tehran is trying to assemble an atomic weapons arsenal. Iran insists its program is solely for peaceful energy production and medical research.

"We put these sanctions in place in order to be able to put us in the strongest position possible to be able to negotiate. We now are negotiating," Kerry told reporters ahead of testifying before the Senate Banking Committee. "And the risk is that if Congress were to unilaterally move to raise sanctions, it could break faith in those negotiations, and actually stop them and break them apart."

With nuclear negotiations set to resume in Switzerland next week, the Obama administration dispatched Kerry and Vice President Joe Biden to Congress on Wednesday to seek more time for diplomacy. They faced skepticism from members of Congress determined to further squeeze the Iranian economy and wary of yielding any ground to Iran in the talks. Kerry said the negotiators should have a 'few weeks' more to see if they can reach an agreement.

The request faces sharp resistance from members

of Congress determined to further squeeze the Iranian economy and wary of yielding any ground to Iran in the talks.

"The Iranian regime hasn't paused its nuclear program," said Rep. Ed Royce, a Republican and House Foreign Affairs Committee chairman. "Why should we pause our sanctions efforts as the administration is pressuring Congress to do?" Kerry said the potential accord with Iran relates to a "tough proposal," adding: If it weren't strong, why wouldn't Iran have accepted it yet?

Kerry said, "What we are asking everyone to do is calm down, look hard at what can be achieved and what the realities are. If this doesn't work, we reserve the right to dial back the sanctions. I will be up here on the Hill asking for increased sanctions, and we always reserve the military option. So we lose absolutely nothing, except for getting in the way of diplomacy and letting it work."

Last week's talks broke down as Iran demanded formal recognition of what it calls its right to enrich uranium, and as France sought stricter limits on Iran's ability to make nuclear fuel and on its heavy water reactor to produce plutonium, diplomats said.

President Barack Obama spoke Wednesday by telephone with French President Francois Hollande. The two countries "are in full agreement" on Iran, the White House said in a statement.

Obama is under pressure at home and abroad to resolve the Iran nuclear standoff, having said the U.S. has until sometime next year before the Islamic republic could reach nuclear weapons capacity. Obama has reached out in an unprecedented manner to Iran's new President Hassan Rouhani, with the two men holding the first direct conversation between U.S. and Iranian leaders in more than three decades. □

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Fewer than 27,000 sign up through US health site

LAURIE KELLMAN
RICARDO ALONSO-ZALDIVAR

Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Fewer than 27,000 people enrolled for health insurance during the first, flawed month of operations for the federal "Obamacare" website, far fewer than expected, the Obama administration said Wednesday.

Even with the enrollment of more than 79,000 people in the 14 states with their own websites, the nationwide total of 106,000 for October was barely one-fifth of what officials had projected — and a small fraction of the millions who have received private health coverage cancellations as a result of President Barack Obama's signature program.

The total also represents just 1.5 percent of the 7 million people the administra-

tion hopes to enroll by next year.

Obama's legacy will depend heavily on the successful implementation of the health care overhaul,

which is meant to extend medical insurance to millions of Americans who do not have it.

The White House raced to reassure anxious Demo-

crats who are worried about the controversial program, which seems sure to be a major issue in next year's midterm elections. The website's difficult

launch Oct. 1 has given opposition Republicans a new line of attack against the health care law, which they unsuccessfully tried to derail last month in a fight that led to a 16-day partial government shutdown.

Republicans hope to use momentum from the troubled launch in next year's elections. Millions of lawmakers' constituents are losing current individual policies that don't meet the law's requirements, despite Obama's misleading promise that Americans who liked their health insurance plans could keep them under the overhaul. To guarantee they don't experience a break in coverage,

they would have to select new plans by Dec. 15. That's a major political problem for Democrats who so far have stood by the president. □



House Oversight Committee Chairman Rep. Darrell Issa, R-Calif., holds up a checklist related to the preparation for the implementation of the Obamacare healthcare program, and specifically, the HealthCare.gov website, on Capitol Hill in Washington, Wednesday, Nov. 13, 2013.

(AP Photo/J. Scott Applewhite)

Court considers 'neutrality agreements' between unions, employers

ADAM LIPTAK

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WASHINGTON — The Supreme Court heard arguments Wednesday in a major labor case that, depending on how it is resolved, could hamper the ability of unions to mount successful campaigns to organize workers.

The case concerned deals in which employers aid unionization drives in exchange for labor peace, sometimes called "neutrality agreements." Several justices seemed receptive to the idea that such deals could run afoul of a federal labor law that bars employers from giving a "thing of value" to unions.

Chief Justice John G. Rob-

erts Jr. seemed skeptical of deals that include "card check" arrangements, in which employers allow unions to collect cards from workers saying they want a union, rather than putting the question to a secret vote.

Voluntary agreements to join a union are one thing, the chief justice said, while a deal between an employer and union allowing elections by card check "taints that process, in particular by allowing the card check procedure that it has been argued exercises coercion against employees to support the union." Other justices seemed wary of interpreting the federal law too literally. Justice

Anthony M. Kennedy said that a strict reading of the law would be "contrary to years of settled practices and understandings."

As part of the arrangements at issue in the case, Unite Here Local 355 v. Mulhall, No. 12-99, a Florida racetrack and casino, Mardi Gras Gaming, agreed to provide information about its workers to the union, to permit organizers onto its grounds, to allow the card check procedure and to remain neutral.

In exchange, the union agreed to spend more than \$100,000 to support a casino gambling ballot initiative and not to picket or strike against Mardi Gras during the unionization

drive.

Such arrangements are commonplace in the hospitality business, said Richard G. McCracken, a lawyer for the union.

"They are efficient," he said of the deals. "They avoid the hard feelings that come in many contested organizing campaigns and thereby create a good environment for collective bargaining."

McCracken said a ruling banning neutrality agreements would be "extremely damaging."

But Justice Samuel A. Alito Jr. said that some of what the union agreed to provide fit comfortably within the usual definition of a "thing of value."

"Why wouldn't the right to use private property in a way that otherwise wouldn't be allowed constitute a thing of value?" he asked.

McCracken responded that a right of access is not a true property right but something less tangible. His main adversary, William L. Messenger, a lawyer for Martin Mulhall, a worker who had objected to the agreement between the casino and the union, said that allowing such deals during organizing campaigns "would tear a massive hole" in the federal labor law. The law bans gifts from employers to unions, he said, and it should be enforced. □

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Toronto Mayor faces heated City Council debate

Continued from front

Although it was a stark demonstration of his political isolation, the vote was merely symbolic because the City Council does not have the authority to force the mayor from office unless he is convicted of a crime.

"Together we stand to ask you to step aside and take a leave of absence," Councilor Jaye Robinson said, reading the open letter.

other. But, he added, "I'm not a rat."

Outside City Hall, hundreds of protesters chanted "resign!" while organizers of Toronto's Santa Claus Parade asked that Ford not walk in the procession this year. Ford's refusal to step down has confounded the City Council, where many members agree that his erratic behavior—from public drunkenness to threatening to kill someone in a videotaped tirade—has consumed Toronto's poli-

sence, apologize to Toronto residents for misleading them and cooperate with police. The council voted 37-5 to ask Ford to take a leave of absence on that motion.

Deputy Mayor Norm Kelly, a Ford ally, announced shortly before the debate that he would support the motion, introduced by Minnan-Wong.

"I'm publicly advising the mayor to take some time," Kelly said.

One Ford ally, Councilor

bought illegal drugs would be passed on to investigators. News reports of the crack video's existence first surfaced in May, but it has not been released publicly.

Another proposed motion would curtail Ford's powers, suspending his authority to appoint and dismiss the deputy mayor and his executive committee, which runs the budget process. It likely won't be debated until Friday.

Toronto's mayor already has limited powers compared to the mayors of many large cities in the United States.

He is just one voting member in the council and his power stems mostly from his ability, as the only councilor elected by citywide vote, to build consensus and set the agenda.

That authority, many council members say, has evaporated in the crack scandal. Ford was elected three years ago, riding a backlash from suburbanites who felt alienated by what they deemed Toronto's downtown-centric, liberal-dominated politics.

Despite his eroding political leverage, Ford promises to seek re-election. He maintains a hardcore of supporters he refers to as "Ford Nation," who applaud him for abolishing an annual \$60 vehicle registration tax, squeezing valuable concessions out of the labor unions and other cost-saving measures.

More revelations about the mayor's misdeeds surfaced Wednesday when a judge released documents from a drug case against a friend and occasional driver of the mayor, Alexander Lisi. Previously released documents revealed the mayor's ties and covert meetings with Lisi. □



Councilor Giorgio Mammoliti, left, speaks as Toronto Mayor Rob Ford, center, and his brother Councilor Doug Ford listen during a council meeting in Toronto on Wednesday, Nov. 13, 2013. A motion being debated Wednesday would call on the mayor to take a leave of absence, apologize to Toronto residents for misleading them and cooperate with police.

(AP Photo/The Canadian Press, Nathan Denette)

The packed council chamber erupted with applause when Robinson ended her speech, saying "Let's get on with city business."

Ford later tried to move a motion directing all council members to undergo "hair drug and alcohol testing" by Dec. 1, but the council chair quickly ruled the motion out of order.

Ford then suggested that many council members are on drugs and they all know stories about each

tics and undermined efforts to tackle other challenges.

But with no clear legal path to force him out, the Council is grasping for ways to shunt the larger-than-life leader aside and govern without him until next year's municipal elections. The open letter was separate from a non-binding motion, also being debated Wednesday, that would formally call on Ford to take a leave of ab-

Giorgio Mammoliti, called the motion a waste of time. "We can't tell him what to do. Only the electorate can tell him what to do," he said.

Toronto police said last month they had obtained a long-sought video of Ford apparently smoking from a crack pipe but that it does not constitute evidence to charge him. Toronto Police spokesman Mark Pugash said Ford's acknowledgment Wednesday that he

Cuba hijacker pleading not guilty in court

CURT ANDERSON

AP Legal Affairs Writer

MIAMI (AP) — A man who admits hijacking an airliner from the U.S. to Cuba almost two decades ago pleaded not guilty Wednesday to federal air piracy charges.

William Potts has said in interviews he decided to return from Cuba last week to face U.S. justice but nevertheless entered the not guilty plea at a brief hearing. He is seeking credit for the 13 years he spent in Cuban prison for the hijacking. A bail hearing was postponed until next week after a 1984 arrest warrant surfaced charging Potts in a New Jersey armed robbery. Potts' court-appointed attorney, Paul Korchin, said he had just learned about the outstanding warrant and needed time to investigate. It could affect whether Potts is granted bail as well as any potential prison sentence if he is convicted.

"We may have to do some background checking on this," Korchin said.

Federal prosecutors oppose releasing Potts on bail, saying he is a flight risk and a danger to the community. No details about the New Jersey robbery were immediately available, other than that the arrest warrant remains active. It was issued in Bergen County, New Jersey, on Aug. 10, 1984, several months after the March 1984 hijacking.

Potts, 56, could get between 20 years and life in prison if convicted of the air piracy charges.

The FBI said Potts claimed to have explosives aboard the New York-to-Miami flight in 1984. □

US Financial Front:

A milestone: American oil production tops net imports

JOSH LEDERMAN

Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — For the first month in nearly

where to meet its needs.

Not since 1995 has the U.S. produced more crude oil than it imported. For sev-

gone a long way toward realizing Obama's goal of curbing global warming. They also credited the

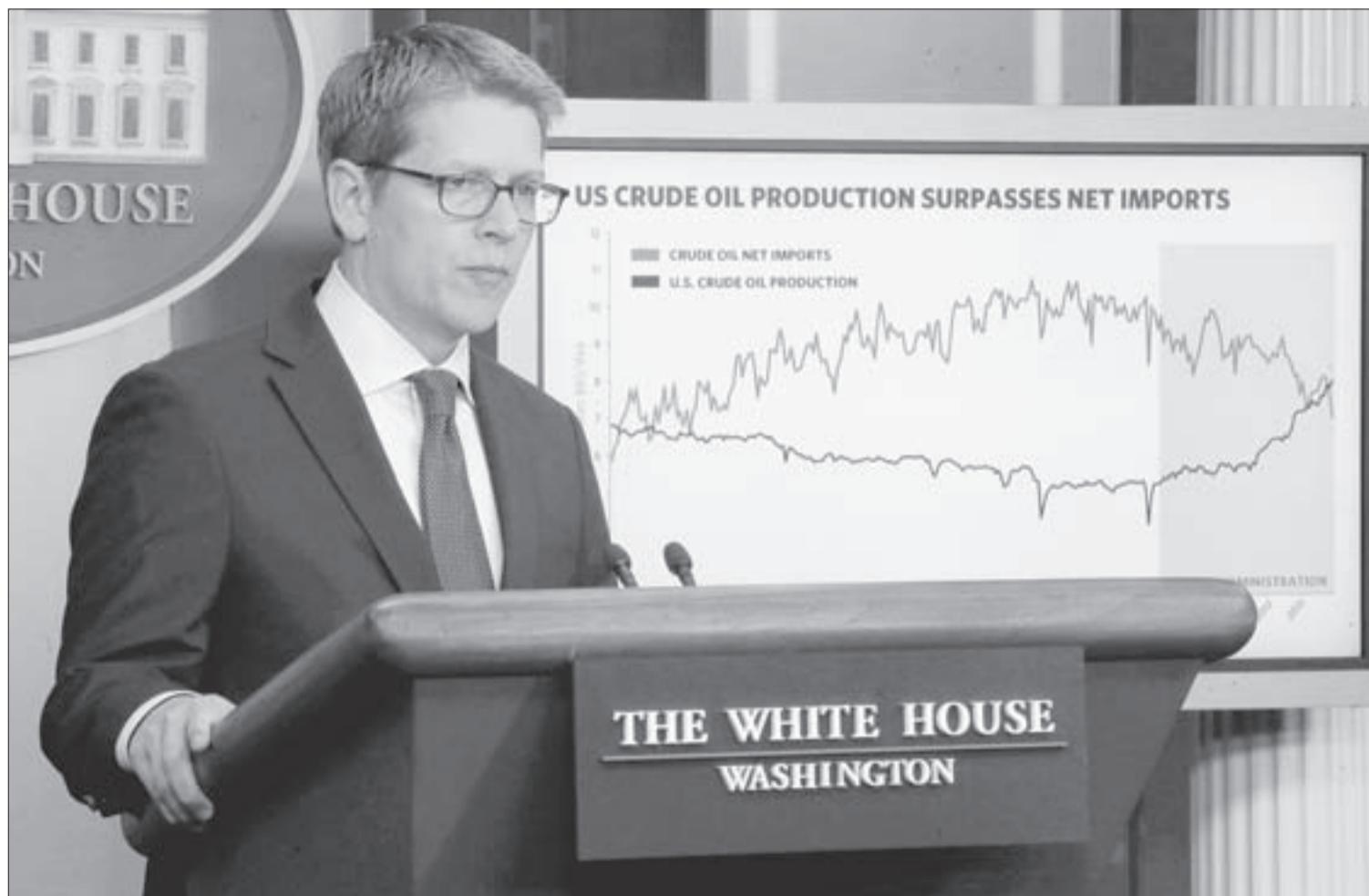
president with promoting drilling on federal lands and offshore as part of his strategy to encourage

more U.S. energy production.

"Taken together, these factors not only reduce our dependence on foreign oil, but work to reduce overall carbon pollution in our communities," said White House spokesman Jay Carney.

But on the production side, energy experts and the oil industry say the higher volumes of oil coming out of the ground come despite Obama's policies, not because of them. They say Obama has made it harder, not easier, to produce oil on government land. The U.S. still exports far less oil to other countries than it imports. "It's a very positive sign — enormously positive," said Philip Verleger, an independent U.S. energy analyst. "But energy policy has not been a help, it's been a hindrance."

Although domestic oil production has been growing since Obama took office, most of the expanded production has been on private and state lands that the federal government doesn't control. □



White House press secretary Jay Carney listens during his daily news briefing at the White House in Wednesday, Nov. 13, 2013. Carney announced that domestic crude oil production as surpass those of imported crude oil.

(AP Photo/Pablo Martinez Monsivais)

two decades, the U.S. in October extracted more oil from the ground than it imported from abroad, marking an important milestone for a nation seeking to wean itself off foreign oil. The shift could foreshadow future opportunities to increase jobs in the U.S., lower the trade deficit and insulate the economy from foreign crises that can send oil prices rising. But it also speaks to deeper, underlying changes in the way Americans use oil, as price-conscious consumers seek to limit what they pay. The resulting decline in consumption has meant the U.S. must buy less oil from the Middle East and else-

eral years now, domestic production has been on the rise, while net imports have been declining. But data released Wednesday by the Energy Information Administration, the statistical wing of the Energy Department, show the trend lines have finally crossed, with crude oil production topping 7.7 million barrels per day. Obama administration officials said President Barack Obama's efforts to boost fuel efficiency for cars have helped to reduce U.S. demand for gas and, in turn, lessen the need to import foreign oil. Officials said requiring auto companies to make cars that run on less gas has

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Euroskeptic leaders unite, aim for parliament bloc

MIKE CORDER
Associated Press

THE HAGUE, Netherlands

(AP) — Two prominent Euroskeptic politicians united Wednesday in a bid to form a bloc in the European Parliament next year to "liberate Europe from the monster of Brussels."

Marine Le Pen, the leader of France's far-right National Front party, announced an alliance with the anti-EU, anti-Islam Freedom Party of Dutchman Geert Wilders, who issued the "liberate" quote.

"The time of patriotic movements being divided is over," Le Pen declared, calling it "a historic day."

Their alliance is being launched as the 28-nation European Union is struggling to recover from a debilitating financial crisis that has forced wealthy northern EU nations to bailout struggling southern econo-



European right-wing politicians Dutchman Geert Wilders, right, and France's Marine Le Pen, left, pose for photographers in The Hague, Wednesday Nov. 13, 2013, prior to meeting for talks likely to focus on next year's European elections.

(AP Photo/Peter Dejong)

mies like Greece and Portugal.

But the announcement by

Wilders and Le Pen fell short of declaring a grand coalition of Euroskeptics across

the continent.

"There are also other parties in the European Union

or Europe that we would like to work together with," Wilders said, acknowledging that one of the highest-profile Euroskeptic groups, the United Kingdom Independence Party led by Nigel Farage, was not yet ready to join forces.

Wilders said he hoped the UKIP would be prepared to join their alliance after European elections scheduled for late May.

The EU's economic malaise has fueled a rise in Euroskepticism among voters who question whether the grand idea of one continent, one market, one currency is capable of delivering prosperity for all. Some are also growing increasingly frustrated at what they see as too much devolution of national powers to EU bureaucrats in Brussels.

Wilders' party has long advocated that the Netherlands should pull out of the EU altogether. Le Pen says France should hold a referendum on the issue.

Standing next to one another at a packed press conference in The Hague, both acknowledged that their parties do not agree on everything.

In the past, Wilders has been reluctant to associate his party with the National Front, because of controversial comments by its founder Jean-Marie Le Pen, Marine's father.

Jean-Marie Le Pen has been convicted and fined for racism and anti-Semitism, but his daughter has sought to soften the party's message and turned its anger toward what she calls the "Islamization" of France. □

Ukraine delays vote on Tymoshenko's release

MARIA DANILOVA
RAF CASERT
Associated Press

KIEV, Ukraine (AP)

Ukraine's parliament on Wednesday delayed a decision on whether to release jailed former premier Yulia Tymoshenko, a move that threatens to derail this ex-Soviet republic's push toward the European Union and shift it back into Russia's orbit.

Parliament Speaker Volodymyr Rybak said the bill allowing the former premier to travel to Germany for medical treatment would be taken up again next Tuesday, only nine days ahead of an impor-

tant summit with EU leaders.

EU officials have warned that they will not back a free-trade and political association agreement with Ukraine if Tymoshenko remains in jail. They have urged her rival, President Viktor Yanukovych, to release her for treatment in Germany as a compromise measure.

Previously they have called Tymoshenko's trial politically motivated.

"Time is running out to achieve compliance with the conditions required for the signature," two special EU envoys, former Polish President Aleksander Kwas-

niewski and former European Parliament President Pat Cox, said in a statement late Wednesday.

EU foreign ministers meet Monday to discuss whatever progress Ukraine has made, though member states already have made clear they would take the advice of Kwasniewski and Cox, who have been shuttling between Kiev and Brussels.

EU Parliament President Martin Schulz said the Cox-Kwasniewski mission would be extended right up to the Nov. 28-29 Eastern Partnership summit in Vilnius, Lithuania.

The two envoys said next

Tuesday's parliamentary session in Kiev will be crucial. "It can be decisive in yielding a settlement but risks also to result in stalemate and a non-productive blame game," they said.

Opposition leaders accused Yanukovych and his allies in parliament of purposely sabotaging the long-awaited EU deal.

Russia staunchly opposes the signing of the EU agreement and has used threats, sanctions and offers of price discounts in an attempt to lure Kiev away from the EU and into a Moscow-led customs union instead. □

Philippines medical care facilities overrun with patients

JIM GOMEZ
KRISTEN GELINEAU
 Associated Press
TACLOBAN, Philippines
 (AP) — A run-down, single-story building with filthy floors at Tacloban's ruined

powerful typhoon. It has little medicine, virtually no facilities and very few doctors. What it is not short of are patients. Hundreds of injured peo-

white building behind the control tower since Typhoon Haiyan ravaged the eastern Philippines on Friday, killing thousands. Doctors who have been dealing with cuts, fractures

treating more serious problems such as pneumonia, dehydration, diarrhea and infections.

The medical woes add to the daunting tasks for authorities, including dealing with looters and clearing the bottlenecks holding up thousands of tons of aid material from coming in.

"The priority has got to be, let's get the food in, let's get the water in. We got a lot more come in today. But even that won't be enough. We really need to scale up operation in an ongoing basis," U.N. humanitarian chief Valerie Amos told reporters after touring Tacloban, the capital of Leyte province. Her office has released \$25 million in emergency relief fund, accounting for a chunk of the millions of dollars pledged by countries around the world.

The World Food Program distributed rice and other items to nearly 50,000 people in the Tacloban area Wednesday, U.N. spokesman Martin Nesirky said. While the cogs of what promises to be a massive international aid effort are

beginning to turn, they are not quick enough for the 600,000 people displaced, many of them homeless, hungry and thirsty.

With the Tacloban airport battered and roads made impassable by debris, very little aid has arrived in the city. Most of it is stuck in Manila and the nearby airport of Cebu, a 45-minute flight away.

Many among the desperate residents have resorted to raiding for food. Mobs overran a rice warehouse on Leyte, collapsing a wall that killed eight people. Thousands of sacks of the grain were carted off. Also Wednesday, security forces exchanged gunfire with an armed gang.

Tacloban Mayor Alfred Romualdez urged residents to flee the city because local authorities were having trouble providing food and water and maintaining order, The New York Times reported. He said the city desperately needed trucks to distribute relief shipments accumulating at the airport as well as equipment to pull decaying corpses from the rubble. □



Typhoon survivors queue up at the Tacloban city airport hoping to be able to board U.S. and Philippine military transport planes Wednesday, Nov. 13, 2013, in Leyte province, central Philippines. Five days after one of the strongest tropical storms on record leveled tens of thousands of houses in the central Philippines, relief operations were only starting to pick up pace, with two more airports in the region reopening, allowing for more aid flights.

airport has become the area's main medical center for victims of last week's

people, pregnant women, children and the elderly have poured into the squat,

(AP Photo/Bullit Marquez) and pregnancy' complications said Wednesday they soon expect to be

Egypt's Morsi: No stability unless coup reversed

SARAH EL DEEB
 Associated Press
 CAIRO (AP) — Egypt's ousted President Mohammed Morsi accused the military chief who deposed him of treason in a message from prison read by lawyers on Wednesday, saying the country cannot return to stability until the coup is reversed and those behind it are tried. The statement was part of a bid by Morsi to rally his supporters since his emergence from the secret military detention where he had been held, with virtually no contact with the outside world since his July 3 ouster.

Morsi was moved to a high security civilian penitentiary last week after the first session of his trial on charges of inciting murder. There, he had his first extensive meeting with a team of lawyers from his Muslim Brotherhood and other allies on Tuesday, outlining to

them his "message to the Egyptian people." But he is emerging to a dramatically changed situation from four months ago. Since then, a fierce crackdown by security forces has crippled the Brotherhood, several thousand members have been arrested, and hundreds have been killed. The group has been banned by a court order and a government-appointed committee is reviewing its financial assets with an eye to seize them. The new military-backed government is pushing ahead with a transition plan aiming for new presidential and parliamentary elections early next year. In the most recent verdict in the crackdown, a court sentenced 12 pro-Morsi supporters to 17 years in prison each over charges linked to violence at Al-Azhar, Sunni Islam's main seat of learning. □

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Soldier's killing stirs outrage in Israel

ISABEL KERSHNER

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JERUSALEM - A Palestinian teenager fatally stabbed a 19-year-old Israeli soldier on a bus in northern Israel on Wednesday, according to police, stirring outrage in Israel and injecting another element of uncertainty into a peace process already clouded over Israeli

calm the storm Tuesday, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu instructed Ariel, a rightist who opposes concessions to the Palestinians, to reconsider the plan, noting that it had not been coordinated with Netanyahu's office. Ariel agreed to a review, but it was still not clear Wednesday whether the plan

were ever accepted. "Either we can convince them to return, and we're trying with them, or we will form a new delegation," Abbas told Reuters before the news of the settlement plans came to light. The stabbing Wednesday took place when the bus, traveling from Nazareth to Tel Aviv, pulled into the sta-



Ilia, center, mother of Israeli soldier private Eden Atias mourns over his coffin during his funeral in Uper Nazareth, northern Israel, Wednesday, Nov. 13, 2013. Atias, 19, was stabbed to death by a Palestinian teenager at a bus station in northern Israel on Wednesday, police said, in a rare nationalistic attack far from the usual West Bank flashpoints.

(AP Photo/Ariel Schalit)

settlement plans in the West Bank. The Palestinian leadership was expected to meet Thursday to discuss whether to continue the negotiations that began this summer and that were supposed to continue for nine months, according to a Palestinian official involved in the talks. The Palestinians were infuriated by the news Tuesday that Israel's housing minister, Uri Ariel, had initiated planning for 20,000 new settlement homes. A White House spokesman said the Obama administration was "deeply concerned" over the plan.

In a late-night attempt to

would be withdrawn, as the Palestinian leadership has demanded.

The disarray in the peace process was evident in the resignations of the two Palestinian negotiators, Saeb Erekat and Muhammad Shtayyeh, in frustration over a lack of progress in the peace talks and the continued Israeli settlement activity. The president of the Palestinian Authority, Mahmoud Abbas, told an Egyptian television network, CBC, this week that the two had resigned, although he suggested that they would nonetheless remain; it was unclear whether their resignations

tion in the northern town of Afula. The Israeli military said the soldier, Eden Atias, 19, had been in uniform on his way to an army base at the time of the attack. He was stabbed several times in the upper body, according to Micky Rosenfeld, a spokesman for the police. Rosenfeld said a 16-year-old Palestinian from Jenin, West Bank, was apprehended at the scene and told security personnel under questioning that he had acted to avenge one or more relatives serving time in Israeli prison. Israeli news media identified the suspect as Hussein Jawadra. □

Police: Spy stuffed in bag probably died by accident

RAPHAEL SATTER

Associated Press

LONDON (AP) — More than three years after the naked, decomposing body of British spy Gareth Williams was discovered stuffed inside a locked gym bag at the bottom of his bathtub, the mystery over his bizarre death lingers, and a police investigation has done little to clear it up. London's Metropolitan Police said Wednesday that their investigation had found that Williams likely died in an accident with no one else involved. But the tentative conclusion, which the police hedged by acknowledging many gaps haven't been filled in, is unlikely to calm conspiracy theories surrounding the case.

Metropolitan Police Deputy Assistant Commissioner Martin Hewitt said Williams, whose remains were discovered in August 2010, was "most probably" killed in an accident, a verdict which conflicts with a coroner's inquest that concluded last year that Williams was probably killed by another person in a "criminally meditated act." Hewitt said the police position "is that, on balance, it is a more probable conclusion that there was no other person present when Gareth died."

"But the reality is that for both hypotheses, there exist evidential contradictions and gaps in our understanding," he said.

Hewitt told reporters at Scotland Yard headquarters that his conclusion was based on the fact that investigators found little evidence of foul play in a death that has spawned a host of theories, from assassination to sexual adventure gone awry.

Williams, a cyberwarfare expert, worked for Britain's GCHQ eavesdropping service and was attached to the overseas espionage agency MI6 when he died.

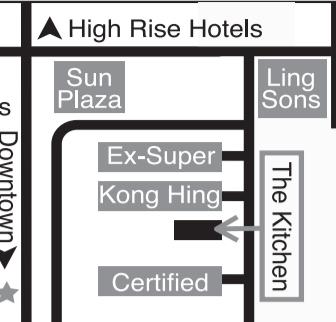
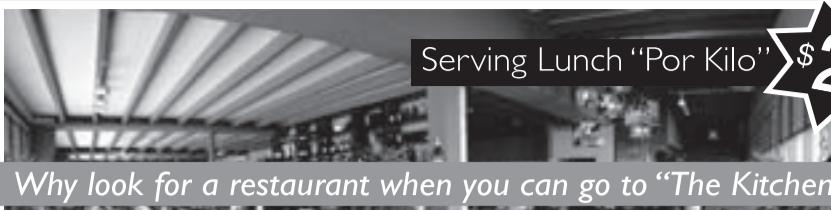
Some have raised the possibility that Williams locked himself in the bag as part of a sex act gone wrong or an experiment in escapology — the Houdini-like art of wriggling out of restraints or traps. Investigators found that he had visited bondage and sadomasochism websites, including some related to claustrophobia — a desire for confinement in enclosed spaces.

Police concluded — after several reenactments — that it was possible for Williams to climb inside the sports bag and lock it.

However, police couldn't find Williams' DNA on the lock, palm prints on the rim of the bath, or footprints in the bathroom itself. The coroner, Fiona Wilcox, said that pointed to another person having taken the bag into the bathroom, noting that if Williams had been "carrying out some kind of peculiar experiment, he wouldn't care if he left any foot or fingerprints."

She was also critical in her inquest verdict of MI6, which failed to pass evidence to investigating police, and said that while it seemed unlikely that British intelligence agencies were involved in Williams' death, it was a "legitimate line of inquiry."

Hewitt said there was no evidence that the apartment had been cleaned to remove forensic traces and nothing to suggest a struggle or a break-in. □



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Prince Charles ready for pension, still in line for job

GREGORY KATZ
Associated Press

LONDON (AP) — Prince Charles plans to claim the government pension he qualifies for when he turns 65 on Thursday, but he still hasn't started the job he was born to do.

The eldest son of Queen Elizabeth II has been heir to the throne since his mother became monarch in 1952, when he was 3.

He is the longest-waiting heir apparent in Britain's history, overtaking Queen Victoria's son, Edward VII, two years ago.

Charles became a grandfather earlier this year with the birth of Prince George, the first child born to Prince William and his wife, Kate. Palace officials said Wednesday that Charles will contribute the government pension to a charity that helps elderly people.

The future king is entitled to about 110 pounds (\$175) per week because of his service in the Royal Navy and voluntary contributions he has made.

As Prince of Wales, he certainly doesn't need the pension fund. He enjoys control of the lucrative Duchy of Cornwall, a vast holding established in 1337 by King Edward II to provide income for his heir. It brings

Charles millions each year. The prince, who is accompanied by his wife, Camilla, will mark his milestone birthday representing his mother at the Commonwealth heads of government meeting in Sri Lanka after spending part of the day in India.

For decades, the queen has attended the meeting, and Joe Little, managing editor of Majesty magazine, said that Charles saw taking her place as "quite a momentous occasion." Stepping in for the queen has become more common in recent years as Elizabeth, 87, has greatly reduced her international travel. Her husband, Prince Philip, 92, has also reduced his public appearances following a series of medical setbacks.

Over his decades as heir, Charles has become known for his strong opinions on topics such as education, architecture, religion, the environment, organic food and homeopathy.

Little said the prince was enjoying his relative freedom to speak out before he becomes king, a role that will require him to be much more cautious in his pronouncements.

"I think he's very much



Britain's Prince Charles waves after a service at the Afghan Church in Mumbai, India.

(AP Photo/Rafiq Maqbool)

making use of the time available to him in that he can put forward theories and get things done that he won't be able to do when he becomes king," said Little.

Charles has also celebrated his birthday by serving as guest editor of a special edition of Country Life magazine, which shares his enthusiasm for preserving Britain's rural areas.

Charles used his stint in the editor's chair to upbraid

supermarket chains for taking advantage of Britain's small farmers and said Britain's farming heritage is at risk. In an editorial column, he called the countryside "the unacknowledged

backbone of our national identity." In recent years, Charles has also criticized financial companies which he says focus on short-term gains at the expense of the environment. □

Bolivia: Less than half its coca goes to cocaine

LA PAZ, Bolivia (AP) — Bolivia's government has released a study that says 58 percent of its coca crop goes to traditional uses while the rest is processed into cocaine.

The long-awaited European Union-financed study found that 31 percent of Bolivia's 10 million people consume coca, a mild

stimulant used in religious rituals, chewed and taken in tea.

President Evo Morales is a coca growers' union chief and his backers have long said Bolivia needs four-fifths of the 25,300 hectares of coca under cultivation in 2012 to meet traditional needs.

U.S. officials insist it needs

no more than 12,000 hectares.

Bolivia is the No. 3 coca producer, following Peru and Colombia.

International law enforcement officials say Bolivia has a growing drug trafficking problem, with much of the cocaine processed in its territory originating in Peru. □

Venezuela appliances crackdown spurs uncertainty

JOSHUA GOODMAN

Associated Press

CARACAS, Venezuela (AP)

— Even by Venezuela's volatile standards, it's been a difficult few days. Basic staples such as flour and vegetable oil have grown scarce throughout the country, the currency is plunging in a thriving black market and inflation that's already among the highest in the world is accelerating. Amid so much unease, President Nicolas Maduro has settled on radical, and some say self-defeating, solutions. In recent days he's ordered the military to take over appliance stores, which he's told to slash prices, leading bargain hunters to form block-long lines across the country.

The populist measures seem designed to help Maduro's party get over the hump of next month's mayoral vote, its first electoral test since the president narrowly defeated opposition leader Henrique Capriles in April. But while the measures apparently are popular with voters, Maduro runs the risk of cannibalizing an already damaged economy.

Some analysts are now

asking whether the late President Hugo Chavez's socialist revolution has reached a point of no return, where what little private investment is left vanishes completely and Maduro has no choice but to fully embrace a statist model. "It's a very high-risk strategy," said sociologist David Smilde, who has spent part of the past two decades teaching in Venezuela and is now a senior fellow at the U.S. think tank the Washington Office on Latin America. "If this week, it's electronic stores, then the automotive sector, and you keep doing this for the four weeks until elections, you could do some real damage to the economy."

It's hard to overstate the grim predicament the government and country face. Although Venezuela claims the world's biggest proven oil reserves, the nation of 30 million is suffering shortages of everything from electricity to auto parts to medical equipment.

Nearly 73 percent of Venezuelans say they're pessimistic about their country's prospects, 20 points more than when Maduro

was elected by a razor-thin margin that the opposition still disputes, according to a poll taken last month by the Venezuelan firm Dataanalisis that was reported by local media. Another 67 percent see the country's political situation as unstable. Maduro has responded by appearing daily on TV to announce the confiscation of businesses he accuses of helping wage an "economic war" on Venezuela. Congress is expected to approve a bill as early as this week granting him special decree powers, which would give him authority to expand the crackdown.

Just recently, Maduro had been trying to woo investment.

The government eased investment rules for the oil industry, the source of 95 percent of export revenue, and rolled out the red carpet for a new factory by Swiss food giant Nestle. Even while avoiding a politically costly devaluation of the country's fixed-rate currency, Maduro's government has supplied more dollars to local producers. Now, analysts say, Maduro is scuttling that attempt

at moderation, with the risk that confiscations and price controls will prompt companies in more critical areas such as food and pharmaceuticals to freeze production.

"The biggest risk he faces is that fear becomes widespread," said Luis Vicente Leon, the Caracas-based pollster for Dataanalisis. Yet the alternative for Maduro would be even worse: His candidates could get trounced in Dec. 8 elections, which would strengthen opposition attempts to force him out of office. Leon said Maduro's electoral strategy of slashing appliance prices while blaming unloved merchants for gouging consumers has so far seemed to work, providing a compelling political narrative that for the first time shows him in command.

The question is how long he'll keep earning those political dividends. Earlier conspiracies floated by Maduro, such as an alleged assassination plot by the opposition and a secret plan to carry out an "electrical coup" with power cuts, barely resonated with voters. □



Shoppers stand in line leaning against a barricade as they wait to enter an appliance store in Caracas, Venezuela, Wednesday, Nov. 13, 2013. President Nicolas Maduro in recent days ordered the military to take over appliance stores, slashing prices, leading bargain hunters to form block-long lines across the country. (AP Photo/Ariana Cubillos)

Cuba cheering election to UN Rights Council

PETER ORSI

Associated Press

HAVANA (AP) — Official media in Cuba celebrated the country's election to the U.N. Human Rights Council as a vindication of the Communist-run nation's principles on Wednesday.

A day after the Caribbean country was picked for a three-year term on the 47-seat Geneva-based body, headlines in Communist Party newspaper Granma called it "a new victory for the Cuban people."

Havana's ambassador to international organizations in Geneva, Anayansi Rodriguez, agreed.

"Cuba's selection is nothing less than a recognition of its consistent stance of rejecting double standards and the persistent efforts by Western powers to use the Council for political ends, to manipulate the issue of human rights in service of its interests and to convert this body into an inquisitor tribunal for the nations of the (global) South who don't submit to their designs," Rodriguez told Granma.

The election of Cuba, China, Russia, Saudi Arabia, Vietnam and Algeria to the council elicited some protests from outside human rights groups who said their inclusion hurts the body's credibility.

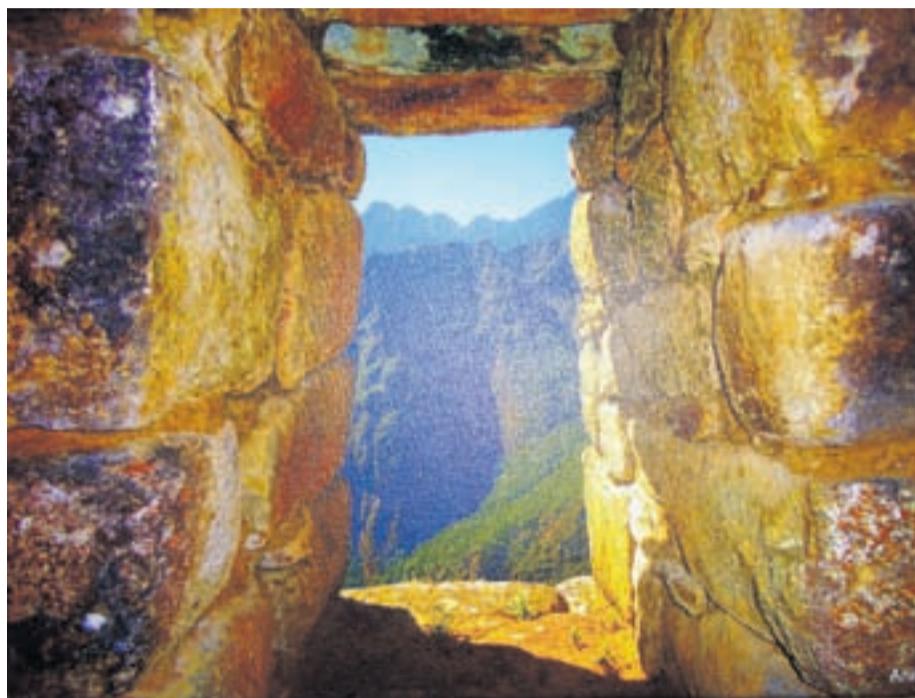
The U.S. ambassador to the U.N., Samantha Power, said in a statement that some countries, without naming names, had been picked "that commit significant violations of the rights the Council is designed to advance and protect."

And Florida Rep. Ileana Ros-Lehtinen, a staunch opponent of the Castro government, accused Cuba of being a "flagrant violator of human rights" for its treatment of political dissidents.

"It is obvious that hypocrisy rules the day in the U.N.," she said in a press release. Cuba counters criticism of its record by saying its system upholds the will of the people. □

LOCAL Aruba TODAY

Colorful grand opening for Solo Art Exhibition "Passages"



PALM BEACH - Anita Hugen is a known local artist, and beloved art teacher at ISA. She is presenting 28 artworks which consist of 21 paintings and 7 photographs from her journey to Peru on canvas for this Solo Exhibition.

Anita explains about the theme 'Passages,' "Door, gates, passages are symbols for changes, new beginnings, closure and much more. They inspire because of their form,

colors and texture and made the whole process very inspiring." Invited local and international guests

for the opening reception recently enjoyed a night of exciting gathering over uniquely created artworks,

with wine and cheese. If you missed the opening night, don't worry! The exhibition continues until Dec. 06, 2013. Please come and visit us any time, the Westin Aruba Art Gallery [WAAG] opens 7 days a week, which is located at the lobby level of The Westin Aruba Resort & Casino. The gallery curators will be present on Tuesday afternoon (3 pm - 6 pm), and Saturday (11 am - 2 pm) to answer



all your questions or/and assist you for purchasing any artworks.

- By Michiko Takatsu, curator at WAAG. □

The New Ritz-Carlton Spa Opens in December!

PALM BEACH - The much-anticipated Ritz-Carlton Spa, an oceanfront sanctuary, is expected to open at the Palm Beach resort in early December, tucked into 15,000 square feet of elegant-tranquility, offering a novel and original spa ritual and an extensive, unique menu of services. The local community can now look forward to balancing its body, mind and soul, under the gentle care of professional spa therapists, combining the experience with the resort's savory dining, the lushly landscaped swimming pools and perhaps even a bit of gaming at the casino,

for dessert, at the end of a healing day. Spa Manager Karin Cofino, reports that the spa offers 13 luxurious treatment rooms. They are equally divided into two wings, serving both men and women in their own separate, stylish and comfortable areas, including two his and hers steam rooms and dry saunas, and two outdoor, private Jacuzzis.

The most exciting feature about the spa besides it being contemporary and gorgeous, is the elaborate spa ritual, designed to totally relax guests and transport them to new heights of wellbeing. The

ritual was conceived with the help of the spa's local team, so that native plants, herbs and botanicals typical to our island experience are integrated in the spa journey. Many of the botanicals used at the spa hail from Dina Veeris's garden, in Curacao, which is exceptional, because most spa cultures just borrow Balinese or Swiss traditions, but here in Aruba the new Ritz Carlton spa is 100% Aruba-inspired, reflecting our water, sky, earth & fire elements, creating a sophisticated and totally new therapies! Guests will embark on

their spa journey at the welcome area where they will be encouraged to make a wish, stacking their own black lava stones from Black Stone Beach, which are now part of the greeting ceremony. And for a more distinct Aruban flavor, one of the spa's standout massages, the Aruba Divi Divi massage, will be performed for 80 minutes with especially long strokes to originally composed music. No doubt a once in a life time experience! Communications Manager Myandra Croes, states that locals are most welcome. A special local menu offers

very reasonably-priced massages, manicures, pedicures and facials, and a further discount is granted on Mothers To Be Treatments, Hair and Makeup, Barber Services, the Oxygen Bar, Wraps, Scrubs and what sounds like the ultimate treat, Couples Massage Training, where couples learn to massage each other under the guidance of a certified therapist. With stress building up in our life, a visit to the Ritz-Carlton spa is certainly recommended and the use of the Fitness Center and the rest of the resort's enticing facilities is included in the price. □

With their Noord & Paradera branches moving to HATO: Aruba Bank announces the opening of its Hato branch!

ORANJESTAD - On Monday, December 2nd, 2013, Aruba Bank will be opening its new branch in HATO. Construction of the building started in February 2013, and it is concluding as planned, right on schedule.

The new bank branch at HATO offers a great variety of services including comprehensive cashier services, customer services, and loans. Additionally, Aruba Bank is introducing the first "self service safe locker" in Aruba, delivering ultimate security and the latest technology. Moreover, the parking lot at the HATO branch is home to a drive thru ATM and a Night Deposit Box.

The bank's Platinum Banking department will be moving from the main Caimuri branch into HATO, offering its Platinum clients the personal service they deserve in a more spacious and contemporary setting.

The new branch in HATO



will welcome a great influx of clients as the branch expect to render services to a substantial number of clients every day. In preparation for that, DOW in conjunction with Aruba Bank constructed a traffic roundabout to guarantee easy and quick access to the complex.

Once inside the gates, the building is graced with a great number of parking spaces, further guaranteeing fast and efficient banking.

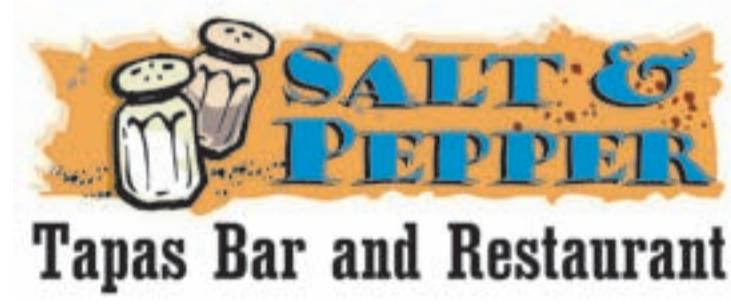
With the opening of the new branch, Aruba Bank's branches in Noord and Paradera will be moving into their new facility. The

branches in Noord and Paradera will remain open to the general public until the 29th of November 2013.

Aruba Bank would like to take this opportunity to thank its clients from the Noord and Paradera neighborhoods for their confidence and support over the years and invites them to visit the HATO branch, a central, spacious and modern facility.

The countdown for the building's inaugural party is on! Aruba Bank is looking forward to celebrate the opening with its clients and the community. □

Soccer fans cheer for their teams at Salt & Pepper as Colombia meets Holland!



PALM BEACH - The much-anticipated friendly international soccer match between Colombia and the Netherlands on November 19 promises to be most entertaining. The match will hopefully be dotted liberally with loads of fireworks. The fans who are going to watch the game at Salt &

Pepper Restaurant in the Arawak Garden, are in for a treat: Heineken is just \$3-a bottle and a mix drink costs \$ 4--, so it does not matter whether Colombia is victorious or the Netherlands: everyone is a winner! The encounter between Colombia and Holland goes underway at 15.30 hrs. (3:30pm). □

Beauty On The Beach

Jennifer Boling
She is from Columbus Ohio, it is her first time in Aruba, she is on vacation with some friends.

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& Wild Jeep tour and our famous Beach & Cave tour, also a variety of watersports such as wave runners, parasailing, tubing and much more. Our desks are located at Casa del Mar (pool deck), Westin Hotel lower lobby, Westin activity center (pool deck), Playa Linda resort next to

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Sharapova to work for NBC at Sochi Olympics

STAMFORD, Connecticut (AP) — Maria Sharapova will work for NBC during its Winter Olympics coverage in her childhood home of Sochi. The four-time Grand

Slam champion lived in Sochi until she was 6 and still has family and friends in the area. She was Russia's flag-bearer at the opening ceremony of the 2012 London

Olympics, where she won a silver medal. NBC Olympics executive producer Jim Bell says that Sharapova "transcends sports as one of the world's most recognizable

stars." He adds that "Maria will offer a unique and personal perspective on a place she knows so well." The opening ceremony in Sochi is Feb. 7. □

Heat roll past Bucks 118-95

The Associated Press

MIAMI (AP) — LeBron James scored 33 points and sat out the fourth quarter, while Michael Beasley scored 19 off the bench as the Miami Heat had little trouble in beating the Milwaukee Bucks 118-95 Tuesday. Mario Chalmers finished with 15 points and seven assists for the Heat, whose previous biggest victory margin was a 12-point triumph over Chicago on opening night. Chris Bosh scored 10 for Miami (5-3). John Henson and Gary Neal each scored 18 points and Giannis Antetokounmpo scored 11 for Milwaukee — all three of them putting up those points off the Bucks' bench. Caron Butler was the only double-digit-scoring starter for the Bucks (2-4), finishing with 10. Miami played without Udonis Haslem (back) and Ray Allen (ill). Shane Battier started in Haslem's place. **MAVERICKS 105, WIZARDS 95 DALLAS (AP)** — Dirk Nowitzki had 19 points to pass Jerry West on the NBA's career scoring list and help Dallas beat Washington.

Continued on Page 21

Dallas Mavericks forward Dirk Nowitzki (41) goes up over Washington Wizards' Al Harrington, left, to score a 3-point basket in the second half of an NBA basketball game, Tuesday, Nov. 12, 2013, in Dallas. With that basket Nowitzki passed Jerry West for 16th place on the NBA's all-time scoring list. The Mavericks won 105-95.

Associated Press



MLB confident players, umps will expand replay



Major League Baseball executive Joe Torre talks with the media at the annual baseball general managers meeting, Tuesday, Nov. 12, 2013, in Orlando, Fla.

Associated Press

ORLANDO, Florida (AP) — Major League Baseball is confident players and umpires will agree to an expanded instant replay system for the 2014 season. MLB Executive Vice President Joe Torre said Tuesday he expects deals to be in place by January. Virtually all umpires' calls other than balls and strikes, and foul tips will be reviewable. It's not yet clear whether umpires will be the ones reviewing the video at a central installation. Owners are expected to give their go-ahead Thursday for funding the expanded replay. Baseball started using video review in 2008 but limited it to home run calls. □

Managers of the year: Terry Francona, Clint Hurdle

MIKE FITZPATRICK
AP Sports Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Two World Series and eight successful seasons in Boston brought Terry Francona exactly zero first-place votes in Major League Baseball manager of the year balloting. It took him one year with the surprising Cleveland Indians to bag the prize. Francona and Clint Hurdle of the Pittsburgh Pirates won the manager awards on Tuesday after guiding their small-budget teams to charming turnarounds. In a close vote by the Baseball Writers' Association of America panel, Francona edged old friend John Farrell of the World Series champion Red Sox 112 points to 96 for

the American League honor. "I have a feeling he wouldn't trade what they did for this any day of the week," Francona said on a conference call from Tucson, Arizona.

Hurdle was a runaway winner in the National League, selected first on 25 of 30 ballots after taking the Pirates to the playoffs in their first winning season since 1992.

"It is so rewarding for me to see what's happened, the synergy in the city," Hurdle said in Pittsburgh. "To be a small part of a group that's able to bring joy at so many different levels — that's what's rewarding to me in life." It was the first Manager of the Year award for Francona



In this Oct. 1, 2013, file photo, Cleveland Indians manager Terry Francona, right, answers questions during news conference; and in this July 23, 2013, photo, Pittsburgh Pirates manager Clint Hurdle hits balls during batting practice. Associated Press

even though — in an interesting twist — he steered the Red Sox to World Series titles in

2004 and 2007. During his initial season with the Indians, he directed them to a 24-

win improvement and a late surge that produced their first playoff berth in six years. □

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NHL Capsules

Panthers snap 9-game skid and surprise Ducks, 3-2

SUN RISE, Florida (AP) — Brad Boyes scored the tie-breaking goal early in the third period and Tim Thomas stopped 32 shots as the Florida Panthers snapped a nine-game losing streak Tuesday with a 3-2 victory over the Anaheim Ducks. Scottie Upshall and Shawn Matthias also scored for the Panthers, who earned their first win under new coach Peter Horachek and ended Anaheim's five-game winning streak. Upshall also had an assist to help Florida rally from two goals down.

The Panthers won for the first time since beating Minnesota 2-1 on Oct. 19. It was their first victory in three games under Horachek, who took over when Kevin Dineen was fired last Friday.

Hampus Lindholm and Andrew Cogliano scored for the Ducks (15-4-1), who lead the NHL with 31 points. Frederik Andersen made 22 saves but lost for the first time in seven career starts.

SABRES 3, KINGS 2, SO

BUFFALO, New York (AP) — Cody Hodgson scored two



Anaheim Ducks' Bryan Allen (55) watches as Florida Panthers' Marcel Goc (57) goes for the puck during the second period of an NHL hockey game in Sunrise, Fla., Tuesday, Nov. 12, 2013.

Associated Press

goals, Ryan Miller made 43 saves as Buffalo beat Los Angeles to avoid matching the worst home start in NHL history.

Matt Moulson and Tyler En-

nis scored in the shootout for the Sabres (4-15-1) and Miller stopped both Los Angeles shooters. Buffalo was winless in its first nine home games, one short of

the NHL record set by Pittsburgh in 1983-84.

Justin Williams and Dwight King scored in regulation for the Kings (11-7-0), who had won their previous two games.

Despite the loss, Los Angeles was the dominant team and controlled most of the play. The Kings outshot the Sabres 45-17 for the game, holding a 15-4 advantage after one period and 30-7 after two.

SHARKS 3, FLAMES 2, OT

CALGARY, Alberta (AP) — Brad Stuart scored 1:13 into overtime to propel San Jose to a victory over Calgary that snapped a five-game winless streak.

Stuart joined the rush and broke for the net and had Joe Thornton's shot deflect off him and past Reto Berra for the winner.

Logan Couture and Patrick Marleau also scored for San Jose. During their skid, they had three shootout losses and one loss in overtime.

San Jose dominated play throughout the game, outshooting Calgary 35-13. The Sharks were particularly strong in the first two periods, building a 2-0 lead

with a 28-6 edge in shots. Mike Cammalleri and Kris Russell scored for Calgary in the third period. The Flames are winless in their past four.

COYOTES 3, BLUES 2, OT

ST. LOUIS (AP) — Oliver Ekman-Larsson scored 56 seconds into overtime and Mike Smith made 37 saves to give Phoenix a victory over St. Louis.

Ekman-Larsson, who had an assist on Phoenix's first goal, took a pass from Mike Ribeiro and beat goalie Jaroslav Halak with a shot from just inside the blue line.

Smith had faced the most shots of any NHL goalie coming into the game (516). He saw another 39 in this one, including 13 in the third period.

David Moss and Mikkel Boedker had the other Phoenix goals.

Maxim Lapierre and Roman Polak scored for the Blues. Halak made 16 saves.

DEVILS 3, RANGERS 2

NEW YORK (AP) — Dainius Zubrus netted the tiebreaking goal with 2:55 left, Ryan Carter scored his first two goals of the season as New Jersey snapped New York's three-game winning streak.

Zubrus put in a loose puck after his shot was blocked by defenseman Dan Girardi for his third goal. That was enough to give Martin Brodeur a third straight win. Girardi had gotten the Rangers even at 2 when he scored his first of the season with 7:42 left. Girardi banked in a shot from the blue line off the skate of Devils defenseman Adam Larsson, who turned 21 on Tuesday.

Brodeur, who earlier this season conceded his starting job to newcomer Cory Schneider started and won for the third time in four games. His previous two outings resulted in shutouts. The 41-year-old Brodeur, who made 33 saves, also allowed a second-period goal to Marc Staal in earning his NHL-record 674th win. □

Sabres fire coach, GM; hire Nolan, LaFontaine

BUFFALO, New York (AP) — The Buffalo Sabres have fired coach Ron Rolston and rehired Ted Nolan to replace him.

Sabres owner Terry Pegula also announced on Wednesday that he fired general manager Darcy Regier and hired Pat LaFontaine as president of hockey operations.

The Sabres have won four of 20 NHL games, the worst start in franchise history. Buffalo edged Los Angeles 3-2 in a shootout on Tuesday to avoid tying the worst home start in NHL history.

Rolston was 19-6-26 in his brief tenure as Buffalo coach. Regier had been the Sabres general man-



In this May 7, 2013 file photo, Buffalo Sabres coach Ron Rolston speaks during an NHL hockey news conference in Buffalo, N.Y.

Associated Press

ager since 1997.

Nolan was the Sabres coach from 1995-97.

LaFontaine starred for the Sabres from 1991-97 and

was inducted into the U.S. Hall of Fame in 2003. He started a job as senior executive for the NHL in October. □

NBA

Continued from Page 18



Miami Heat's LeBron James (6) shoots over Milwaukee Bucks' Gary Neal, left, and Brandon Knight (11) during the first half of an NBA basketball game Tuesday, Nov. 12, 2013, in Miami.

Associated Press

Nowitzki hit consecutive 3-pointers late in the third quarter, the second one putting him at 25,194 points for 16th place, two ahead of West.

Trevor Ariza led the Wizards with 27 points, including five 3-pointers. He also had seven rebounds and four steals.

Monta Ellis started slowly from the field before scoring 10 in the fourth quarter to help the Mavericks improve to 4-0 at home this season. Ellis matched Nowitzki with 19.

Nowitzki ended up 8 of 19 from the field with eight rebounds, two assists and steals. He has 25,197 points for his career. Reggie Miller is 15th on the scoring list with 25,279 points.

LAKERS 116, PELICANS 95
LOS ANGELES (AP) — Jordan Hill had a career-high 21 points and 11 rebounds in his first start of the season, and Pau Gasol added 14 points and eight rebounds in Los Angeles' victory over New Orleans.

Nick Young scored 17 points for Los Angeles, which lost five of its last seven before trouncing the Pelicans, who beat them handily last week in New Orleans.

Jodie Meeks and Xavier Henry scored 15 points apiece for the Lakers, who led by 20 points in the first half before coasting to their 12th win in their last 13 regular-season meetings with New Orleans.

Eric Gordon scored 17 points for the Pelicans, who have lost on the first two stops of their three-game West Coast road trip. □

Bullying just the latest issue for NFL



In this July 24, 2013 file photo, Miami Dolphins guard Richie Incognito (68) and tackle Jonathan Martin (71) stand on the field during an NFL football practice in Davie, Fla.

Associated Press

TIM DAHLBERG

AP Sports Columnist

Even by NFL standards, the bash Aldon Smith threw last year at his mountain home in California was a wild one. By the time the party ended, two people were shot and the San Francisco 49ers linebacker had been stabbed. Prosecutors would later bring assault weapons charges against Smith, who also faces drunk driving charges after being arrested in September in a separate incident.

No one was shot in the locker room of the Miami Dolphins, though there were threats of murder and mayhem that weren't actually carried out. The way Richie Incognito talked was so frightening to teammate Jonathan Martin that he quit his job and left town on the first plane he could find.

That the NFL can be a violent place is no secret. The league has prospered by glorifying it between the lines on Sunday, even as evidence mounts that players risk long-term damage to their health and their brains every time they take to the gridiron.

It's a tough place to make a living because only the tough survive to play. Mar-

tin was tough enough to be trusted to open holes and block 135-kilo (300-pound) men intent on doing damage to his quarterback, but apparently not tough enough to handle the abuse that Incognito threw his way.

Listen to Incognito defend himself and you have to wonder what world he lives in. In a society where the types of things he says are not tolerated, how can there be a place where they are encouraged? "All this stuff coming out, it speaks to the culture of our locker room, it speaks to culture of our closeness, it speaks to the culture of our brotherhood," Incognito told Fox Sports.

OK, we get it. They live in a different world than the rest of us, where the rules of normal society don't always apply. They're warriors on a mission for greatness, something that those who don't play the game simply don't understand.

It's utter nonsense, of course. The locker room mentality of having your teammate's back is all well and good, but just how that translates into racial slurs or texts about killing family

members is incomprehensible. Certainly, athletes in other sports don't take it to those levels.

If that's the culture — and in Miami it certainly seems to have been — then it's time to change that culture. Bullying and racism need to be tackled with the same — albeit belated — enthusiasm the NFL is now showing for concussion research.

There's a difference between a tight locker room and a place where players act like animals just released from their cages. The rules of normal civilization should apply, even in an abnormal world where young men who have been idolized all their lives for what they can do with a football think they don't. The Dolphins took the field on Monday with an offensive line depleted by the absence of Martin and Incognito, and the results were predictable. Tampa Bay won its first game of the season, and the Dolphins running game was nearly non-existent with a franchise record-low 2 yards in 14 carries.

Equally predictable was their owner going on national television at halftime to declare how shocked he

was about things that went on under his watch.

"The world has changed," Stephen Ross said. "One thing that will not change: There will not be any racial slurs or harassing or bullying in that locker room and outside the locker room."

That's the kind of talk that should be coming from commissioner Roger Goodell, who has been strangely silent on the scandal. Goodell did appoint a New York lawyer as a special investigator to probe locker room misconduct, but so far seems content to let that play out before taking a stand.

That might be because the league is so hugely popular that a little locker room bullying won't hurt it at all. The same is true for the growing controversy over the Redskins nickname.

But for a commissioner who has talked about changing the culture of the league both with concussions and Bountygate, this might be the best opportunity to change one more culture that has no place in any league.

Stop the rookie hazings, and do away with the \$15,000 dinner bills. Ban the N-word for good, no matter the color of the skin of the player who might use it.

And while you're at it, give Incognito a year off without pay.

There's not a lot that can be done in a brutally violent league to keep players from being hurt on the field. But they shouldn't be afraid among their own teammates, and they should understand that workplace protection applies to the NFL just like it does in any company office.

NFL players don't need to prove they're tough in the locker room or at the dinner table with teammates. They do it week in and week out, sacrificing their bodies while knowing it can all come to an end on any play or any Sunday. In a league grappling with a lot of issues, this doesn't have to be one of them. □

Pacquiao could consider retirement after Rios bout

CHRIS LINES
Associated Press

BANGKOK (AP) — Manny Pacquiao's trainer says the Filipino boxer will contemplate retirement if he fails to perform well against Brandon Rios this month. Freddie Roach said if the Rios fight "does not go well, we will seriously talk about his retirement," but that Pacquiao was training as well as ever for the Nov. 24 bout in Macau.

Pacquiao is coming off successive defeats against Timothy Bradley in a much-criticized judges' decision, and then a knockout at the hands of Juan Manuel Marquez.

A third successive defeat would put his career at the crossroads, and while Roach said performance levels were more important than results, he acknowledged serious thought would have to be given to the future of "Pac-man" if he does not return to his best in Macau.

Pacquiao is juggling his boxing career with responsibilities as a Philippines congressman and other outside interests, and defeat could see him turn his attentions fully to his commitments outside the ring.



In this March 23, 2011 file photo, Filipino boxer Manny Pacquiao, left, trains with coach Freddie Roach in Baguio, northern Philippines. Pacquiao is dedicating his comeback fight against Brandon Rios to the victims of the devastating typhoon that has left hundreds of thousands displaced in his native Philippines. The eight-division champion is in camp in the southern Philippines - only about 320 kilometers (200 miles) from where Typhoon Haiyan caused the most destruction - for the Nov. 24, 2013 bout in Macau.

Associated Press

"If it does not go well, we will seriously talk about his retirement and possibly going to politics," Roach said in a teleconference on Wednesday.

"It's really hard to say until we see the fight, but I will be the first one to tell him

to retire, and we have an agreement that as soon as I tell him that, he will retire." However Roach said "I don't see him slipping in the ring at all."

The duo have been preparing in the southern city of General Santos City, which

was not affected by the typhoon that hit the east coast of the Philippines last Friday.

Roach said General Santos City remained hot and sunny as Typhoon Haiyan devastated more northern parts of the country, kill-

ing thousands and leaving more than half a million people homeless.

His status as a national hero in the Philippines meant Pacquiao considered leaving the training camp to help relief efforts, but Roach said it was too close to the fight to alter preparations.

"It's way too close to the fight, he needs to double down," Roach said, although he granted his fighter much of Wednesday off, giving him the chance to help out remotely.

The brutal nature of the Marquez knockout, when Pacquiao fell face first to the canvas, raised questions about whether he could maintain the all-action, on-rushing style which propelled him to the top of boxing.

Roach said he saw no sign of any inhibition or caution in his style so far during a scheduled 110 rounds of preparation.

"I know people are skeptical about that. Manny is a realist."

He accepts it. It does not bother him," Roach said. "If you don't think you're going to be knocked out, you've got the wrong sport." □



Rory McIlroy of Northern Ireland acknowledges the crowd after finishing the HSBC Champions golf tournament at the Sheshan International Golf Club in Shanghai, China, Sunday, Nov. 3, 2013.

The Associated Press

BERNIE McGUIRE
Associated Press

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates (AP) — Embroiled in court cases on both sides of the Atlantic, Rory McIlroy has bemoaned the off-course distractions that have forced him to replace

winning golf titles with making trips to lawyers' offices. The Northern Irishman remains without a victory in 2013 as he returns to Dubai this week to defend the last title he captured, the World Tour Championship, and has slipped from No. 1

McIlroy bemoans legal wrangles in turbulent 2013

in the rankings to No. 6. In the intervening 12 months, he has become tied up in legal wrangles against his former management company, Horizon Sports Management, and the other against his former sponsor, Oakley.

"I've seen more lawyers' offices and more lawyers this year than I care to see in my entire life," McIlroy said on Tuesday.

"It's not something I ever want to go through again, and I'm making sure that I won't go through it again. "As a golfer, you want your mind as clear as possible, and it's hard for that to happen when you've got other things that are go-

ing on that, firstly, you don't want to happen, and secondly, you don't feel should be happening.

It has been a distraction and I haven't had to deal with it as much as some of the guys around me."

McIlroy, whose relationship with tennis star Caroline Wozniacki has also made the headlines this year, said he was taking some advice from Tiger Woods about how to handle his off-course issues.

"Sometimes you have to say 'no' and sometimes you have to put yourself first and say 'no,' and I need to do this for myself to maintain the level in my game," McIlroy said.

"It's something Tiger actually said to me last year. He said you have to remember what got you here in the first place, and you know Tiger, it's 'no' 99 percent of the time for him."

McIlroy won last year's World Tour Championship at the Jumeriah Estates course when he birdied the closing five holes to overcome Justin Rose and end the year with money titles in Europe and on the U.S. PGA Tour.

He still has two more tournaments left in 2013, the Australian Open in Sydney and the Tiger Woods-hosted World Challenge at Thousand Oaks. □

Beyond Twitter: The next wave of tech IPOs brews

BARBARA ORTUTAY

MICHAEL LIEDTKE

AP Technology Writers

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)

— Just as one high-tech breakthrough often paves the way for the next big thing, technology IPOs move in virtuous cycles, too.

Twitter's scintillating stock market debut punctuated a procession of highly anticipated coming-out parties over the past two-and-a-half years, providing a springboard for a new generation of rapidly growing startups to make the leap to Wall Street.

The next wave of potentially hot IPOs includes trendy services such as Airbnb, Square, Spotify, Dropbox, Uber, Snapchat, Pinterest, Box, Scribd, Flipboard and King.com. Most of their services are tailor made for smartphones and tablets, a crucial characteristic that helped feed the rabid demand for Twitter's stock in its initial public offering last week.

Despite the short-messaging service's unprofitable history, Twitter is now worth about \$29 billion — a valuation that has enriched its founders, employees and early investors.

"Twitter just made it clear that the IPO window is open and a lot of success can be had," says Ira Rosner, an attorney and shareholder for Greenberg Traurig, a law firm that helps prepare companies for IPOs.

Other startups — and the venture capitalists who provide them with rounds of funding — will be angling for similar windfalls by filing their own plans to go public over the next two years, Rosner believes.

"There is no question that a successful offering encourages other offerings," he says. "It gets people excited and it creates buzz."

Even before Twitter's IPO, good vibes were rippling through the stock market as the Dow Jones industrial average and Standard & Poor's 500 indexes repeatedly set new highs. The fertile conditions have produced 199 IPOs in the U.S. this year, according to the research firm Renaissance



Twitter signage is draped on the facade of the New York Stock Exchange, Thursday, Nov. 7, 2013 in New York.

Associated Press

Capital. At the current pace, 2013 is on track to be the biggest year for IPOs in a decade.

Sentiment among venture capitalists is also strong — the highest since 2007 according to a survey by Mark Cannice, a University of San Francisco professor of entrepreneurship who polls Silicon Valley financiers every three months.

The companies generating the most interest from venture capitalists include Uber, the provider of on-demand car services that received \$258 million so far this year and Pinterest, which nabbed \$425 million. Pinterest's latest round of financing, for \$225 million, valued the popular online pinboard service at nearly \$4 billion. The San Francisco company just recently began trying to generate revenue, which means it could be several years before it becomes profitable. Snapchat, meanwhile, recently turned down a \$3 billion buyout offer from Facebook, according to a Wall Street Journal report citing anonymous people briefed on the matter. The report also said China's Tencent Holdings had offered to invest in the company at a \$4 billion valuation. A Snapchat representative did not immediately return a message for comment Wednesday.

"The market is signaling that it is very receptive again to these young, high-growth social media Internet companies," says Tim Loughran, finance professor at the University of Notre Dame in Indiana. Twitter's successful IPO even proved that it's irrelevant whether companies are profitable, he says.

A string of IPOs that began with the May 2011 debut of professional network LinkedIn Corp. helped fuel investors' interest in rapidly growing Internet companies. Other online services with large audiences followed LinkedIn into the public stock market, including online review site Yelp Inc., Internet radio station Pandora Media Inc., daily deal maker Groupon Inc., online game maker Zynga Inc. and social networking leader Facebook Inc.

Groupon and Zynga have been duds so far, largely because they didn't adjust quickly enough to shifting conditions in their respective markets, but all the others are trading above their IPO prices. LinkedIn and Yelp have more than quadrupled from their IPO prices, making the stocks star performers among the group.

Facebook's May 2012 IPO spooked many investors because of trading glitches and questions about the company's ability to

grow mobile revenue. But the company has since soothed critics by proving it can make money from mobile advertisements. The stock is now trading well above its \$38 IPO price after losing more than half of its value in the first four months of trading.

The next batch of startups expected to test their fate on the public market doesn't include names as well known as Twitter or Facebook, so splashy IPOs of either's caliber are unlikely. Twitter's \$1.82 billion market debut made it the second largest Internet IPO in the world, relegating Google Inc.'s stock market debut in 2004 to third place.

Twitter could prove even more influential than its IPO predecessors because of the route to market it chose — and its shaky financial condition. The San Francisco company took advantage of a federal law passed last year that allows companies with less than \$1 billion in revenue in its last fiscal year to keep its IPO documents under seal until the final few weeks before a price is set on a stock offering. This alternative — known as the Jumpstart Our Business Startups, or JOBS, Act — allowed Twitter to secretly fine-tune its filing to satisfy regulators.

Although Twitter filed its

IPO paperwork in July, the information wasn't unsealed until Oct. 3 — just five weeks before its stock market debut. In contrast, Facebook's IPO filing was accessible — and picked over — for more than four months before the company's stock market debut. The confidentiality provided by the JOBS act means some promising startups may have already started the process to go public, but haven't yet revealed their plans.

By keeping its finances under wraps, Twitter minimized the amount of time people had to dissect the mounting losses the company is absorbing as it expands its service to accommodate 232 million global users. Investors' willingness to embrace a company that has lost nearly \$500 million since its 2006 inception is likely to embolden other unprofitable startups.

As privately held companies, startups rarely reveal anything about their finances until their IPO filings. But some, such as Snapchat and Pinterest, are generating little or no revenue as they subsist on venture capital. Many of the companies that are producing revenue rely on advertising, a dependence that worries Larry Chiagouris, marketing professor Pace University's Lubin School of Business in New York.

"If you fast-forward beyond the next 24 months, people will realize that these companies just aren't going to make a lot of money," he says. "Advertisers are not putting a large portion of their budgets into these companies."

Chiagouris thinks the stampede to invest in Twitter and other money-losing startups is heading in the same direction as the dot-com bubble of the late 1990s when a horde of unprofitable Internet companies were ushered on to Wall Street.

"People are chasing the dream of profits as opposed to any evidence of profits," Chiagouris says. "And it's a hope, it's a wish, it's a dream, but that's all it is right now." □

US stock markets get retail therapy, hit new highs

STEVE ROTHWELL
AP Markets Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — U.S. stock indexes climbed back into record territory Wednesday after department store chains gave an optimistic forecast for holiday sales. Macy's surged 9 percent, leading strong gains among retailers including J.C. Penney, Nordstrom and Target.

The forecast from Macy's shows that the U.S. may be heading into the holidays with a surprising retail wind at its back. And it's the latest news that suggests the economy, while far from robust, is showing stronger-than-expected strength to close out the year. That could continue pushing up a stock market that is already soaring without the benefit of a booming economy.

"When the consumer starts spending, it's pretty much a rising tide," said Ron Florence, deputy chief investment officer for Wells Fargo Private Bank. "That gives a big lift across the board."

The Standard & Poor's 500 index rose 14.31 points, or 0.8 percent, to 1,782, its 34th record close this year. The index is up 25 percent

this year. If it ends 2013 with that gain, it would be the best performance in a decade.

The Dow Jones industrial average gained 70.96 points, or 0.5 percent, to 15,821.63, also a record. The Nasdaq composite rose 45.66 points, or 1.2 percent, to 3,965.58, well below its record close of 5,048.52 reached in March 2000.

Macy's jumped \$4.35 to \$50.68. Its earnings climbed 22 percent for the quarter ended Nov. 2. The department store chain, which rose the most in the S&P 500 index, was the first major retailer to report earnings for the quarter.

The shopping season is a critical time for retailers because it can account for much of their yearly revenue. The season also indicates where consumer spending, a key driver of the economy, is headed. U.S. stocks started the day lower as investors considered when the Federal Reserve might start reducing its economic stimulus. The Fed is buying \$85 billion of bonds a month to keep interest rates low and support the economy. That



Trader Daniel Trimble, left, and Joseph Lucchese, right, work on the floor of the New York Stock Exchange Wednesday, Nov. 13, 2013. Stocks are getting off to a weak start on Wall Street, following overseas markets lower.

(AP Photo/Richard Drew)

has helped drive a rally in stocks this year. Surprisingly strong reports on economic growth and hiring last week have led investors to speculate that the Fed may pare back its stimulus sooner than expected.

"We're in a pause as everyone waits for more data," said Kate Warne, a strategist at investment adviser Edward Jones.

Investors will closely follow

Thursday's confirmation hearing for Janet Yellen, who has been nominated to succeed Fed Chairman Ben Bernanke, for clues about when the Fed may begin to pull back its economic stimulus.

Chegg, an online textbook rental company, flopped on its first day of trading, slumping \$2.82, or 22.6 percent, to \$9.68. Another market debut did much better:

Extended Stay America, a hotel operator, jumped \$3.87, or 19 percent, to \$23.87.

Investors may have been concerned about Chegg's lack of profits. Although its annual revenue has consistently grown — to \$213 million in 2012 — Chegg said in its initial public offering filing that it couldn't assure investors it will be profitable anytime soon. □

China's vow on market gets tepid reception in Asia

BETTINA WASSENER
© 2013 New York Times

HONG KONG - The Asian business community's initial reaction Wednesday to the highly anticipated pronouncement of China's Communist Party leaders: "long on goals and short on details"; "broad-brushed"; and falling "way short." President Xi Jinping of China emerged late Tuesday after the closed-door meeting with a mandate to give the market a "decisive role" in the world's second-largest economy.

The seemingly investor-friendly talk failed to impress, and the Shanghai composite index was down 0.8 percent at midday and the Hang Seng index was down 1.3 percent.

The initial communiqué

from the leadership conference was never expected to lay out in specific detail the complicated puzzle of changes that are needed to put the Chinese economy on the path to more balanced and sustainable growth, and analysts have now begun playing a guessing game of what comes next.

"The meeting largely delivered on our realistic expectations for economic reform - a sensible but broad roadmap with some (rough) idea of time frame," Yao Wei,

an economist at Société Générale in Hong Kong, wrote in a note. "However, the real test for the new leadership starts now."

omists say leaders need to wean the economy off the credit and government-led investments that have fueled growth for years.

In addition, they say China should reduce its reliance on exports and manufacturing,

get its people to spend more at home, and combat the corruption and environmental degradation that have accompanied the strong growth of the past few decades. At the same time, many of these changes are likely to face opposition from players in state-owned companies and local governments who have benefited from the system and would want to preserve the status quo. For many investors, one of the most optimistic ele-

ments of the communiqué was a change in rhetoric. Previously, the party had spoken in terms of the market taking a "basic" role.

The shift to "decisive" role was significant because it "seems to suggest that a consensus has been reached about deepening market-driven reforms while avoiding embracing fundamental capitalistic changes," said Kevin Lai, an economist in the Hong Kong office of Daiwa Securities.

Another potentially significant development could be the planned establishment of a new party leadership group on economic policy to oversee the introduction of market-oriented changes.

Although details as to who will head the group have not yet been announced, the move was positive, the economists at Standard Chartered wrote in a note, as it could provide China with a necessary high-level body to drive economic changes. Currently, any overhauls require a highly bureaucratic sign-off process involving multiple ministries and other agencies. For more concrete evidence of how the leadership will progress, analysts and investors will have to wait for more detailed action plans and announcements that are likely to come in the next few weeks and months as the fuller set of decisions made at the four-day meeting is published. □

Hector Sants officially resigns from Barclays

JULIA WERDIGIER

© 2013 New York Times

LONDON — Barclays said Wednesday that Hector W. Sants would not return to his post as compliance chief after taking a leave of absence last month because of exhaustion and stress. Sants, a former head of Britain's financial regulator, resigned after concluding that he would not be able to return to work in the near term, Barclays said in a statement.

Barclays also said that its chief operations and technology officer, Shaygan Kheradpir, was leaving. Kheradpir will become chief executive of Juniper Networks, based in Sunnyvale, Calif., succeeding Kevin Johnson, who is retiring, Juniper said in a statement.

At Barclays, Darryl West, the chief information officer, will take over from Kheradpir on an interim basis. Allen Meyer, head of compliance of the corporate and investment banking unit, will temporarily take on the responsibilities of Sants. The departures are a setback for the chief executive, Antony P. Jenkins, who set out to change the bank's culture and improve compliance after Barclays faced a string of legal issues, including a \$450 million fine last year for its role in the manipulation of the benchmark London interbank offered rate, or Libor.

During his 10 months at Barclays, Sants started to review the bank's risk-taking activities. Jenkins said in a statement Wednesday that Sants "made significant progress towards creating a world class compliance function at Barclays and in improving our relationships with regulators and governments."

Sants is not the only senior financial executive in London to take a leave in recent years because of stress. But his resignation stands in contrast to the actions of António Horta-Osório, chief executive of the Lloyds Banking Group.□

GM stock rises as government sells off more shares

TOM KRISHER
AP Auto Writer

DETROIT (AP) — Shares of General Motors rose to their highest level in almost three years Wednesday after analysts applauded news that the company could be free of U.S. government ownership by the end of the year.

The Treasury Department,

KRISHER

ernment's stake in of the company is now less than 4 percent.

"We believe the exit will be complete by year-end, which, in our view, is a positive catalyst for the stock," Sterne Agee analyst Michael Ward wrote in a note to investors Wednesday morning.

Shares rose more than 4

initial public offering. Later in the afternoon, the stock pulled back slightly \$38.03, still up 3.7 percent for the day. Trading volume topped 33 million shares by midafternoon, about double the normal daily sales. That could clear a path for GM to start paying dividends or buy back more of its stock, Buckingham

Wednesday trading price. The stock has risen more than 60 percent in the past year on strong earnings, new product introductions and the prospect of the government's exit from the business.

Amaturo wrote that GM has the balance sheet to buy back the remaining government shares to end government-imposed limits on executive pay. He also said that in early 2014, GM could start paying a dividend of 80 cents per year, about a 2.2 percent annual yield at the current stock price. The government got 912 million shares, or a 61 percent stake in GM, in exchange for a \$49.5 billion bailout that saved the company from financial ruin during the financial crisis in 2008 and 2009. Treasury gradually has sold off its stake, and a watchdog says the government expects to lose at least \$9.7 billion on the bailout.

The Treasury report said the government has recovered roughly \$37.2 billion of the \$49.5 billion it spent to save GM five years ago. That means taxpayers are still \$12.3 billion in the hole. The report didn't say how many shares were sold in October or how much stock the government still owns. As of Sept. 26, it owned 101 million shares or about 7 percent of the company.□



Photo shows the grill of a 2013 GMC Terrain AWD SLT-1 in Pittsburgh. Shares of General Motors rose to their highest level in almost three years Wednesday after analysts applauded news that the company could be free of U.S. government ownership by the end of the year.

(AP Photo/Gene J. Puskar)

in a monthly report to Congress, said Tuesday that it sold \$1.2 billion worth of GM stock in October. The report didn't say how many shares were sold, but it's likely that the gov-

percent to \$38.50 early in the afternoon, the highest level since the stock reached \$39.48 on Jan. 3, 2011, shortly after GM's post-bankruptcy return to the stock market with an

Research analyst Joseph Amaturo wrote to clients. Both Amaturo and Ward have \$50 price targets and "Buy" ratings on GM stock. The targets are 31 percent higher than the

Stillwater Mining chalks up \$201 million loss

BILLINGS, Montana (AP)

— Stillwater Mining Co. reported a net loss of \$201.5 million for the latest quarter after slashing the value of its copper reserve in Argentina, but company executives said Wednesday its underlying financial results are good.

The Billings-based company announced Tuesday that it had reduced the value of the Altar copper and gold project by \$290 million to \$102 million. The company in part cited economic and regulatory uncertainty in Argentina as a drag on its investment in the country.

"The business climate in Argentina has clouded the outlook," Stillwater interim CEO Terrell Ackerman said in a conference call with investors Wednesday.

The precious metals mining company acquired the Altar reserve in 2011 as the centerpiece of a \$487 million cash and stock purchase of Peregrine Metals Ltd.

Stillwater will continue to have a presence in Argentina, but it will take some time to determine its long-term direction with the project, which should be coming out early in 2014, Ackerman said.

Company executives noted the fundamentals for palladium are "robust," with prices high due to increased automobile manufacturing in the U.S. and labor unrest in South Africa, where the metal also is mined.

"Financially, this year's third quarter results are excellent without the writedown," said Gregory Wing, Stillwater vice president and chief financial officer.

Revenues for the quarter rose more than 54 percent compared with last year, to \$280 million. The increase mainly was due to the higher palladium prices and

new suppliers that caused the company's platinum group metals recycling business to increase 74 percent from this time last year. Employment in Stillwater's Montana mining operations has grown nearly 7 percent from last year, from 1,629 employees to 1,736, officials said.

Former Stillwater chairman and CEO Frank McCallister was ousted earlier this year in part due to investor discontent with his pursuit of Altar. That effort was joined by former Montana Gov. Brian Schweitzer, who replaced McCallister as chairman.□

'700 Sundays': You've heard the joke before, but that's the point

JASON ZINOMAN

© 2013 New York Times

NEW YORK - Songs can get stuck in your head, but what about jokes?

Many would argue that comedy depends so much on surprise that repetition can hurt it. But then how would you explain the crowds at the Imperial Theater that are roaring with laughter at Billy Crystal's old-school charm

who cares? It's funny when delivered with the polish of a borscht belt veteran, and if you didn't like that line, don't worry: Another's coming fast.

With Crystal, jokes move quickly; everything else is slow. The show rambles for 2 1/2 easy-to-trim hours. Crystal, who is 65 but looks about a decade younger, has never been a comedian who reflects

make two topical jokes (one about Obamacare, another about Sen. Rand Paul), he is surely the only comedian in New York still using Mamie Eisenhower as a punch line. Instead of focusing on backstage stories, Crystal uses his facility at performing broad yet specific characters to evoke domestic scenes, including an animated family fight done in mime.



Billy Crystal in a revival of his one-man show "700 Sundays" at the Imperial Theater in New York. The monologue about growing up on Long Island, at heart an adoring portrait of the father Crystal lost at age 15, was a hit on Broadway in 2004.

(Sara Krulwich/The New York Times)

in "700 Sundays"?

Sure, they might have missed the hit monologue the last time it was on Broadway, in 2004. Maybe they never bought the book version or saw the national tour in 2009. It's also possible that they didn't hear Crystal do some of the same impressions or tell identical stories on his 1985 comedy album "Mahvelous."

But my suspicion is that familiarity here is not a bug, but a feature. The core pleasures of this warmly affectionate portrait of a New York childhood involve nostalgia and sentiment, the sex and violence of today's Broadway.

"Yiddish is a combination of German and phlegm" is not the freshest joke, but

his era. On "Saturday Night Live" he was wonderful playing older men or show business figures from yesteryear. His greatest movie, "When Harry Met Sally" (Meg Ryan has never had a better comedic foil, not even Tom Hanks), revealed how time can make our younger selves look silly. And Crystal's stature as a master emcee, most famously for the Academy Awards, is built on amiable charm and a little song and dance that seems like it's from a show-business yesteryear.

"700 Sundays" is itself a love letter to the past. The set approximates his childhood home in Long Beach, N.Y., and features home movies projected onstage. While he does

At the show's heart, which is worn on its sleeve among other places, is an adoring portrait of his father, who died when Billy was 15. (The title is a reference to the number of Sundays he spent with him.) Jack Crystal helped run a record store in Times Square and produced records by jazz greats like Billie Holiday. His father here comes off as funny, loving, supportive. Crystal tells a story of his standing up to a mobster and later describes him as generous with the musicians he worked with. All the reverent stories don't add up to a flesh-and-blood character. Jack Crystal remains remote, larger than life, which may be where Crystal wants to keep him. □

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UN: Besides Haiyan, 2013 storm season near average

KARL RITTER

Associated Press

STOCKHOLM (AP) — Apart from Typhoon Haiyan, which has devastated the Philippines, it's been an average year for tropical cyclones, the U.N. weather agency said Wednesday in its annual climate report. The World Meteorological Organization counted 86 tropical storms so far this year, just three short of the annual average since 1981. They were unevenly spread across the globe. The Atlantic saw its quietest season since 1994 in terms of the intensity and duration of tropical storms, according to the WMO report, which was released as U.N. climate talks were ongoing in Warsaw. Of the 12 named storms only two — Humberto and Ingrid — reached hurricane strength. Both were Category 1 hurricanes, the lowest level.

The Western North Pacific, however, had recorded 30 storms by early November, above the annual aver-



An aerial view shows signs for help and food amid the destruction left from Typhoon Haiyan in the coastal town of Tanawan, central Philippines, Wednesday, Nov. 13, 2013. Typhoon Haiyan, one of the strongest storms on record, slammed into six central Philippine islands on Friday leaving a wide swath of destruction and thousands of people dead.

Associated Press

age of 26, the WMO said. Thirteen of them were typhoons, including Haiyan, which struck the Philippines last week.

Storms that reach 74 mph

(119 kph) are called hurricanes in the Atlantic and typhoons in the northwest Pacific.

Typhoon Haiyan is one of the most powerful storms to

make landfall anywhere, and it is feared to have killed thousands of people and affected more than 9 million.

"Although individual tropi-

cal cyclones cannot be directly attributed to climate change, higher sea levels are already making coastal populations more vulnerable to storm surges. We saw this with tragic consequences in the Philippines," WMO Secretary-General Michel Jarraud said in a statement.

The global sea level reached a record high in March this year, according to the report. Since satellite measurements began in 1993, seas have been rising annually by about 3.2 millimeters or just over one-tenth of an inch. Scientists believe it's a result of global warming.

The report also said 2013 is on track to become one of the top 10 hottest years on record. The first nine months of the year were about 0.86 F (0.48 C) warmer than average, meaning 2013 so far is tied with 2003 as the seventh hottest year since the start of measurements in 1850, the WMO said.

The hottest year on record is 2010. □

Scientists: Oldest big cat fossil found in Tibet

ALICIA CHANG
AP Science Writer

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Scientists have unearthed the oldest big cat fossil yet, suggesting the predator — similar to a snow leopard — evolved in Asia and spread out. The nearly complete skull dug up in Tibet was estimated at 4.4 million years old — older than the big cat remains recovered from Tanzania dating to about 3.7 million years ago, the team reported. While the new specimen is not a direct ancestor to big cats like tigers, lions, jaguars, it is closely related to the snow leopard, said study leader Jack Tseng of the American Museum of Natural History in New York.

The find was detailed in Wednesday's *Proceedings of the Royal Society B: Biological Sciences*.

In 2010, Tseng and colleagues drove to the Himalayas to go fossil hunting. The team split up to cover more ground. While hiking on a mountaintop, Tseng's wife, Juan Liu, a graduate student, found a trove of scattered bones and radioed others to help collect them. As they started digging, they found a buried cat skull about the size of a large grapefruit.

By analyzing the surround-

ing rocks and soil, the researchers determined the skull's age.

The fossil is "convincingly older than the current record holder," said David Polly, a paleontologist at Indiana University who had no role in the study.

Polly said in an email that there's also good evidence that the big cat lived in the Tibetan plateau and there could be even older big cat fossils there to uncover. The newest fossil had a broad forehead similar to snow leopards and its front teeth were heavily worn. □

This artist rendering by Mauricio Anton of the Proceedings of the Royal Society B shows a reconstruction of an extinct big cat, *Panthera blytheae*, based on skull CT scan data.

Associated Press



Cheadle to play Miles Davis in long planned biopic



In a Saturday, Sept. 14, 2013 file photo, Don Cheadle arrives at the VIP Pre-Fight Party for the One: Mayweather vs. Canelo Fight at the MGM Grand Garden Arena in Las Vegas. Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — Don Cheadle will play Miles Davis in a biopic the actor has long planned on the innovative jazz pioneer.

BiFrost Pictures told The Associated Press on Wednesday that it will finance and produce "Kill the Trumpet Player," with Cheadle also making his directorial debut. Cheadle has been trying to make the film for years. Production is finally set to begin in June.

The production company said the movie will focus on when Davis temporarily retired from making music and then re-emerged in 1979. The script is written by Cheadle and Steven Baigelman.

Ewan McGregor will co-star as a Rolling Stone reporter, and Zoe Saldana will play Frances Davis, the trumpet player's former wife. Davis collaborator Herbie Hancock will be involved in the production.

Davis died in 1991 at age 65. □

Kim Kardashian cited for speeding on L.A. freeway

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Kim Kardashian was cited for speeding Tuesday after a California Highway Patrol officer spotted the reality star apparently being chased by paparazzi on a Los Angeles freeway.

CHP Officer Ming Hsu said Kardashian was pulled over at about 1 p.m. on the 101 Freeway near the Van Nuys Boulevard exit. Three other cars apparently driven by paparazzi were also stopped, although two of them left the scene before an officer was able to talk to the photographers, according to a news release.



In this Oct. 24, 2013 file photo, Kim Kardashian arrives at the inaugural Dream for Future Africa Foundation Gala at Spago in Beverly Hills, Calif.

Associated Press

The third photographer, Juliano A. Goncalves, pulled around Kardashian's vehicle and started taking pictures. □

'Challenger Disaster' TV film stars William Hurt



This image released by Science Channel shows William Hurt in a scene from the film "The Challenger Disaster." Hurt portrays Dr. Richard Feynman, the world-renowned physicist and Nobel laureate whose sharp mind and dogged spirit led him to the design flaw that caused the space shuttle Challenger to explode in 1986.

Associated Press

FRAZIER MOORE

AP Television Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — The watching world was horrified when, on Jan. 28, 1986, the space shuttle Challenger exploded over Cape Canaveral, Fla., just seconds after liftoff. Seven crew members, including beloved Teacher-In-Space Christa McAuliffe, lost their lives and the manned space program was dealt a nearly mortal blow.

Five months later, the reason — two of the shuttle's O-rings had failed during launch — was made public, a major finding of the presidential commission formed to solve the mystery.

A vocal member of that commission was Richard Feynman, a world-renowned physicist and Nobel laureate whose sharp mind and dogged spirit led him to the design flaw, in the process exposing negligence and cover-ups by both NASA and the contractor supplying it the O-rings.

A new film, "The Challenger Disaster," stars William Hurt as Feynman (with co-stars including Brian Dennehy and Bruce Greenwood). "I'm working pretty hard," he says with clear under-

Airing Saturday at 9 p.m. EST on Science Channel, it depicts his unswervable search for the truth, even in the face of resistance from his colleagues.

"In a way, Feynman interested me more than the project did," says Hurt. "This is mostly an event story, but I thought we could allow character to exist within the narrative and lead to a greater conclusion: Human courage is really what it's all about, and listening to your own instinctive, loving skeptic. That's what Feynman did."

It's a nippy fall day and Hurt is discussing the film, and many other things, with a reporter as he walks his dog, Lucy, in Manhattan's Riverside Park.

The 63-year-old Hurt, a TV, stage and Oscar-winning film star (for "Kiss of the Spider Woman"), has been taking an acting break this fall to play a different role, that of student, as this former Tufts theology major plunges, with undisguised humility, into a pair of courses at Columbia University: computer science and Indo-Tibetan Hinduism.

"I'm working pretty hard," he says with clear under-

statement as he unsnaps the leash worn by Lucy, a gentle Doberman pinscher-Labrador mix, who is nibbling some grass and contemplating the joggers. "Your mind, your heart must learn to value yourself," Hurt says, pivoting back to what Feynman taught him. "That's where your answers will come from: Learn to bear your frustrations gladly, 'cause they're your teacher. YOU are your teacher."

An actor often outspoken about the frustration he bears as an actor ("I have a hard time finding work that will allow me to do what I know how to do, because they won't give me time to prepare") has only good things to say about shooting "The Challenger Disaster."

A co-production with the BBC, the film was directed by James Hawes ("Doctor Who," "Fanny Hill"), whom Hurt hails as "a great human being and a great director."

Under Hawes' stewardship, Hurt says, he got what he craves as an actor: "Not to be showing off, not to be insecure, but to open myself to a new look at life." □

Too much? Lady Gaga saturates market

CHRIS TALBOTT
AP Music Writer

There's just one way to escape the blitz surrounding Lady Gaga's new album: completely unplug from society.

To kick off the release of her new album, "Artpop," this week, the entertainer, never known for understatement, has been omnipresent.

She began with a huge release party Sunday where she debuted Volantis, billed as the "world's first flying dress." She floated about 6 feet above the floor before performing at the event, streamed live on Vevo.

The next day, she opened pop-up "Artpop" stores in New York and Los Angeles, where Gaga-related merchandise was sold, and she was one of the main honorees at Glamour's Women of the Year ceremony. On Wednesday, she was due to appear at the opening of an H&M store in New York's Times Square. She's scheduled to tackle hosting and performance



Honoree Lady Gaga attends the 23rd Annual Glamour Women of the Year Awards hosted by Glamour Magazine at Carnegie Hall on Monday, Nov. 11, 2013 in New York.

Associated Press

duties on NBC's "Saturday Night Live," and she redesigned the Life section logo

of USA Today in her image — the first time the newspaper has had a celeb-

ity do so. The newspaper also featured an interview with the superstar. And a concert special with Ryan Seacrest is set to air on the CW Network next week.

Gaga's publicity push leading up to the debut of "Artpop" could be described much like the singer herself

— eye-catching, unique, daring and, of course, over the top. It comes amid mixed reviews for the album, the departure of her longtime manager and questions about whether Gaga-mania might be on the wane outside her core Little Monsters. The album's first single, "Applause," remains a top 10 hit, but was considered a bit of an underperformer compared with her previous hits.

Bill Werde, Billboard's editorial director, thinks folks wondering if the 27-year-old is approaching her expiration date are missing the point.

"She's presenting an artistic view of pop music that's a lot more challenging than anything else that's even approaching the top of our charts now. She is risking her top success for the sake of art, and I think a lot of people don't get that," Werde said after viewing Sunday's show online.

"You have to really appreciate how conservative most pop fans are in the world. They don't necessarily want their music dipped in art. They don't want to see pop stars come out for a performance wearing a terrifying scarecrow mask," he added.

It's what we've come to expect from Gaga, however. Her career has been as much about performance art as music. After all, this is the woman who has paraded around in a dress made of meat, assumed a male alter-ego for an awards show, arrived at another in an egg and stripped naked onstage in Europe last month.

"She's definitely one of the most iconic artists that we have on the planet," said hitmaker David Guetta, who worked with Gaga on her new album. "I like the way that she works be-

cause she's just an artist. I don't see her as belonging to one school. She's just art. Even though it's pop music and it can sometimes have emotional (aspects), pop can also be very commercial. And I like the way that she's doing pop in a very artistic way."

Some have questioned how much her approach resonates these days, especially when Miley Cyrus draws weeks of headlines by twerking onstage at the MTV Video Music Awards. Gaga's performance at that show barely rated a blip at the water cooler the next morning.

Gaga's supporters, though, warn against viewing her in the short term. They believe she's built something more durable.

Kid Kelly, SiriusXM's vice president of music programming, hosted an interview session with Gaga last week that drew an eclectic crowd that ranged from pre-teen to middle age.

"She has a vision for what she does as an artist, but not necessarily like you're on the assembly line of creating formulaic hits," Kelly said. "She's a genius, the way she presents, the way she acts, the way she's thinking constantly about innovating and re-innovating herself, the way she is very, very forward thinking. She understands her audience I think better than most people give her credit for."

"Artpop" is Gaga's fourth full-length album, and comes after a forced hiatus. A hip injury sidelined her and forced her to cancel her tour last year. In a brief interview before her Sunday performance, Gaga said that time off gave her some perspective.

"You know what I realized? That I don't need to reinvent myself. What I realized is that in your lifetime, if you have one really great idea, run with it. And run all the way to outer space if you can," she said. "If you believe in yourself and you work hard, rehearse and have discipline, these ideas could take us to the moon." □

Katy Perry planning something special to open AMAs

CHRIS TALBOTT
AP Music Writer

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (AP) — Katy Perry is on a four-week journey that snakes around the world, including stops in Amsterdam, Australia and Japan. She's got Germany to go before crossing the Atlantic Ocean to Miami. And then it's across the continent to Los Angeles.

"I am probably not going to be able to tell you what day of the week it is or what time it is because I will have lived in so many different time zones," Perry said.

She's got one date memorized: Nov. 24. That's when the 29-year-old pop star will open the American Music Awards with her new single, "Unconditionally." Her performance will be announced Wednesday, along with appearances by Jennifer Lopez in tribute to Celia Cruz and TLC,

and the pop star said in a phone interview she plans to step it up in what she believes is her first chance to open an awards show.

"You take that into consideration, that you are kind of like setting the tone for everyone in the evening, so you always bring out the big guns in the beginning," Perry said, later adding: "I always seem to be flying in on something or coming out of something. I like to entertain the kids, I really do." Perry, Lopez and TLC, which will feature an unannounced guest, will be joined in performance by many of the year's top stars, including Justin Timberlake, Lady Gaga, Miley Cyrus, Luke Bryan and One Direction. Pitbull will host the show, to air live from Los Angeles on ABC.

Perry says "Unconditionally" is her favorite song from her



Katy Perry poses for photographers upon arrival at the 2013 MTV Europe Music Awards, in Amsterdam, Netherlands, Sunday, Nov. 10, 2013.

Associated Press

new album, "Prism," which opened at No. 1 on the Billboard 200 chart three weeks ago with 285,800 copies sold. So far this year, she's boxed under New York's Brooklyn Bridge on MTV's Video Music Awards, and she became a human maypole on the network's European Music Awards last Sunday. □

Funny Girl



MAUREEN DOWD

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HOLLYWOOD - As Hollywood bowed down to Hillary Clinton, who swept through on a state visit with Chelsea on Friday, there seemed to be only one person here with any reservations.

"I want her to take a voice class," Sarah Silverman said, as she curled and uncurled like a cat on the gray couch of her modest West Hollywood apartment decorated with taped-up pictures of her family.

"She's so smart and has so much to say and can change the world but she's" - here Silverman goes fortissimo - "TALKING LIKE SHE'S YELLING AT YOU. She sounds like a mom who's yelling at you. And it triggers a response."

What response does Ted Cruz trigger?

"Terrifying," she says. "He's disgusting, and one day I Wikipedia-ed him, and I'm like four days older than him, and it made me so depressed."

She does credit conservatives with being deviously effective at naming things. "Citizens United," she says. "What sounds more beautiful than that?"

The comedian says she's "not smart enough" about politics, and in an HBO special, airing Nov. 23, she sticks to her usual sweet depravity with jokes about rape, porn, Jews and her family. But she became a hilarious viral force in the last two elections.

In 2008, she did the "Great Schlep" video urging Jews with grandparents in Florida to withhold visits to "bubble" and "zadie" unless they agreed to vote for Barack Obama.

In 2012, she offered Sheldon Adelson "an indecent proposal" involving a bikini bottom and a lesbian sexual treat if he would give \$100 million to Obama instead of Mitt Romney.

She teased Mitt on Twitter, asking about his sexual proclivities. And she quickly got a million views for her video slamming voter ID laws. When a rabbi wrote to JewishPress.com to criticize Silverman's "Let My People Vote" campaign, suggesting that she should "channel" her passion into marriage and children, her dad defended her with a few of the off-color words he taught Sarah when she was a toddler.

But Silverman, whose persona has always been that of the adorable, pigtailed child-woman, defended herself recently after some younger male comics mocked her as a crone, in Hollywood terms. She admitted

to W. Kamau Bell on his TV show, "Totally Biased," that it took a couple of days to recover her self-esteem.

At a Comedy Central roast of James Franco, Jonah Hill said, "Sarah is a role model for every little girl out there. I mean, every little girl dreams of being a 58-year-old single stand-up comedian with no romantic prospects on the horizon. They all dream of it, but Sarah did it." (Silverman is 42 and dates comedian Kyle Dunnigan.)

Hill also offered this shot: "People say it's too late for Sarah to become successful in movies at her age. I again do not agree. It's not impossible. I mean, it's not like they're asking you to bear children or anything like that."

Roast Master Seth Rogen introduced her as "No. 29 on Maxim's Hot 100 - in the year 2007."

Silverman told Bell that "as soon as a woman gets to an age where she has opinions and she's vital and she's strong, she's systematically shamed into hiding under a rock. And this is by progressive pop-culture people!" Looking like a lithe college girl in a blue and white striped T-shirt, sweatpants, sneakers and no makeup, she stressed to me that "everything goes" at a roast and that she brutally dishes it out - she leveled fat jokes at Hill at the roast - so she has to take it.

And her philosophy is that women should not get special favors but just be the best at what they do. "That's what makes strides for women," she says. "Be undeniable."

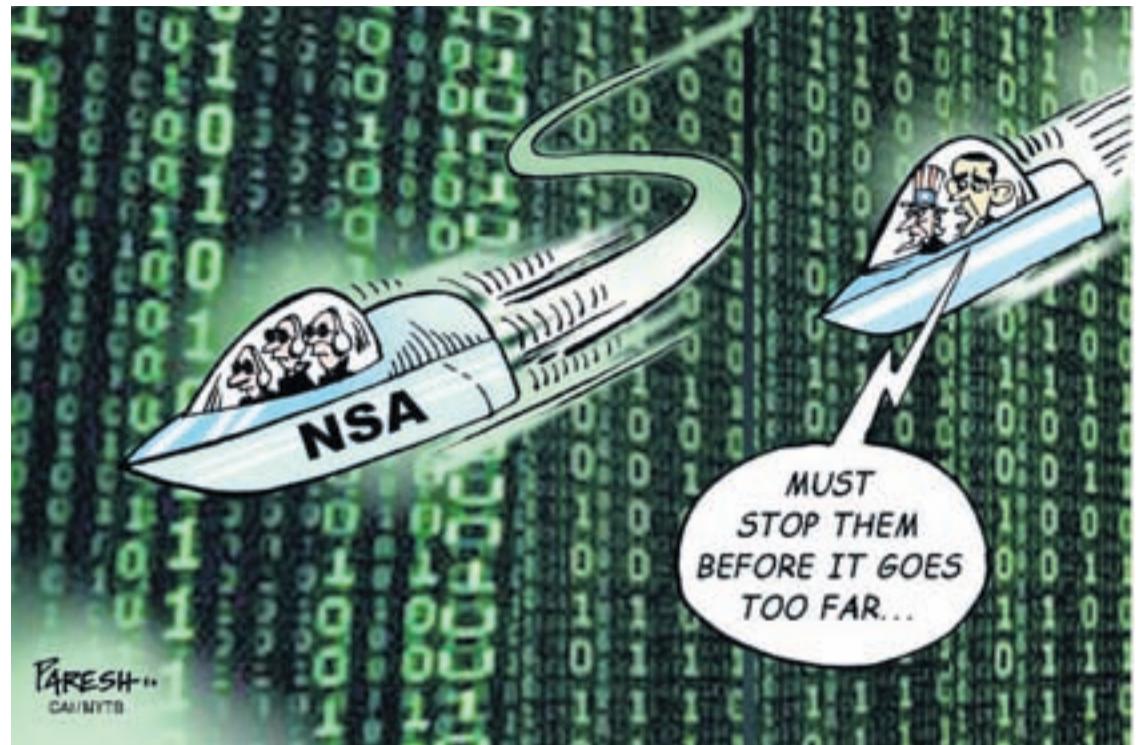
Still, the taunts hit a chord. You can be the toughest girl on the block and still be vulnerable, as Hillary learned in New Hampshire in 2008, when she got emotional. Silverman said she was up for a role recently, and "it was between me and a 25-year-old to play the love interest of the 50-year-old man, and I lost it." She laughs ruefully.

"These issues always come up when an actress hits a certain age and has a voice she can use," she says. "It's not any kind of new notion. It's just new for me, you know what I mean? I love all those guys. Still, I think it was OK to admit that it cut me. We're just made of feelings."

She adds that jokes about appearance play differently: "Look, Jonah Hill can be fat; guys can be fat and still deserve love in this society. You know? In white America, overweight women don't deserve love."

The gender divide comes up again when I ask her about having kids, given her riff in the HBO special about how much she loves them.

"Maybe I would have had kids if I had a wife," she says. "I have a lot of guy comic friends who have families because they have wives and they raise the kids. And I'm on the road all the time, and I date other people who are on the road. But I guess I really just was never ready. I still don't feel like I'm ready. My plan is to adopt and be like young grandma age." □



Why I (Still) Support Obamacare



THOMAS L. FRIEDMAN

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At the recent New York Times forum in Singapore, Eleonora Sharef, a co-founder of HireArt, was explaining what new skills employers were seeking from job applicants, but she really got the audience's attention when she mentioned that her search firm was recently told by one employer that it wouldn't look at any applicant for a marketing job who didn't have at least 2,000 Twitter followers - and the more the better. She didn't disclose the name of the firm, but she told me that it wasn't Twitter.

At a meeting with students at Fudan University in Shanghai a few days earlier, I was struck by how anxious some of the Chinese students were about the question: "Am I going to have a job?" If you're a software engineer in China, you'll do fine, also a factory worker - but a plain-old college grad? The Times reported this year that in China today "among people in their early 20s, those with a college degree were four times as likely to be unemployed as those with only an elementary school education."

Stories like these explain why I really hope that Obamacare succeeds. Say what? Here's the logic: The Cold War era I grew up in was a world of insulated walls, both geopolitical and economic, so the pace of change was slower - you could work for the same company for 30 years - and because bosses had fewer alternatives, unions had greater leverage. The result was a middle class built on something called a high-wage or a decent-wage medium-skilled

job and the benefits that went with it.

The proliferation of such jobs meant that many people could lead a middle-class lifestyle - with less education and more security - because they didn't have to compete so directly with either a computer or a machine that could do their jobs faster and better (by far the biggest source of job churn) or against an Indian or Chinese who would do their jobs cheaper. And by a middle-class lifestyle, I don't mean just scraping by. I mean having status: enough money to buy a house, enjoy some leisure and offer your kids the opportunity to do better than you.

But thanks to the merger of globalization and the IT revolution that has unfolded over the last two decades - which is rapidly and radically transforming how knowledge and information are generated, disseminated and collaborated on to create value - "the high-wage, medium-skilled job is over," says Stefanie Sanford, the chief of global policy and advocacy for the College Board. The only high-wage jobs that will support the kind of middle-class lifestyle of old will be high-skilled ones, requiring a commitment to rigorous education, adaptability and innovation, she added.

But will even this prescription for creating enough jobs with decent middle-class incomes suffice, asks James Manyika, who leads research on economic and technology trends at the McKinsey Global Institute. While these prescriptions are certainly correct, notes Manyika, they "may not be enough to solve for the scale and nature of the problem." The pace of technologically driven productivity growth, he said, suggests that we may not need as many workers to drive equivalent levels of output and GDP. As the MIT economists Erik Brynjolfsson and Andrew McAfee show in their book "Race Against the Machine," for the last two centuries productivity, median income and employment all rose together. No longer. Now we have record productivity, wealth

and innovation, yet median incomes are falling, inequality is rising, and high unemployment remains persistent.

To be sure, notes Manyika, a similar thing happened when we introduced technology to agriculture. We did not need as many people to produce food, so everybody shifted to manufacturing. As the same thing happened there, many people shifted to services.

But now, adds Manyika, "a growing share of high-paying services and knowledge work is also falling prey to technology." And while new companies like Twitter are exciting, they do not employ people with high-paying jobs in large numbers. The economy and the service sector will still offer large numbers of jobs, but many simply may not sustain a true middle-class lifestyle.

As a result, argues Manyika, how we think about employment to sustain a middle-class lifestyle may need to expand "to include a broader set of possibilities for generating income" compared with the traditional job with benefits and a well-grooved career path. To be in the middle class, you may need to consider not only high-skilled jobs, "but also more nontraditional forms of work," explained Manyika. Work itself may have to be thought of as a form of entrepreneurship, where you draw on all kinds of assets and skills to generate income.

This could mean leveraging your skills through Task Rabbit, or your car through Uber, or your spare bedroom through AirBnB to add up to a middle-class income.

In the end, this transition we're going through could prove more exciting than people think, but right now asking large numbers of people to go from being an employee to a work entrepreneur feels scary and uncertain. Having a national health care safety net under the vast majority of Americans - to ease and enable people to make this transition - is both morally right and in the interest of everyone who wants a stable society. □

ROLL WITH IT

WILLIAM VAN METER

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NEW YORK - It was 10 p.m., and the floor of the basketball court in a Bedford-Stuyvesant Salvation Army center was a blur of roller skate-powered counter-clockwise motion.

As hip-hop blared and flashing lights illuminated the hoops, a woman in cheetah stretch pants skated as if running in place in front of a large fan, her hair blowing behind her like a video vixen's. Those who weren't as comfortable on eight wheels slowly circled the outskirts, their arms outstretched for balance like pelicans about to take off. The inner circle was reserved for the hard-core skaters showing off their skills. A novice fell hard, and one of the rink attendants blew his whistle and blocked an oncoming train of interlocked teenagers from barreling over her.

It was a Wednesday night at Crazy Legs Skate Club, a weekly dance party on wheels that attracts all levels of the roller strata: first-wave roller disco denizens who never gave up the fight, a new generation of skate devotees and a smattering of hip Brooklynites.

"Crazy Legs is special," said Dyana Winkler, a filmmaker. "You have hipsters coming off the G train, mixed with Central Park skaters in their 60s and 70s, and African-Americans who have developed a style that's very different from disco and very different from what the Central Park skaters do. So it's this melting pot. Apart from this converted basketball court, there are no other rinks in the city. It's forced these communities that would have been separate to come together."

Winkler and her partner, Tina Brown, are making a documentary, "United Skates," tracking the evolution of skate dancing, including the multiday "skate jams" taking place across the country.

"Roller skating isn't dead," Winkler said. "It's just gone

underground."

"It's a lifestyle," said Lance Byrdsong, 19. "We go skating three times a week, like to Hot Skates in Long Island and Branch Brook in New Jersey." He was wearing a sleeveless T-shirt that read "I Would But It's My Skate Night."

Roller disco is well past its heyday of the 1970s and '80s, when celebrities like Michael Jackson and Cher would lace up, and there was a deluge of skate-themed films and episodes on TV shows like "Charlie's Angels." Skating plateaued in New York, a victim of high rents and liability insurance. And what could have been the death knell of skating in the city was the closing of the three area rinks, each with tight-knit communities: the Skate Key in the Bronx in 2006 and the Roxy in Chelsea and the Empire in Crown Heights in 2007.

"All of us went into fits of sadness," said Lynna Movingstar, an actress, who was taking a break from the Crazy Legs floor. She had silver fingernails, and her hair was pulled up into a Mohawk braid. "I've been skating 18 years," she said. "Skating was like going to church."

When the rinks were open, I skated seven nights a week."

Crazy Legs helps fill the



Joey Pagan gets low at the Wednesday night dance party held by the Crazy Legs Skate Club, at the Bedford-Stuyvesant Salvation Army center in New York.

(Yana Paskova/The New York Times)

void. Sebastián Silva, 34, the Chilean director of "The Maid," is a three-year habitué. "It was like I found heaven," he said. "Two blocks from home, the most fun, diverse, funky crowd ever, and I can skate. You go in circles for three hours. It's pretty abstract."

Silva recently shot a scene for his next film, "Nasty Baby," at Crazy Legs. An autobiographical comedy-drama about a gay couple trying to have a child, it stars Kristen Wiig.

"I was going backwards with a camera on my shoulder, dodging people," he said. "It will have to be subtitled because they

wouldn't turn the music off. The footage is so unique. You can't make that up or hire extras like this."

He added, "Kristen is a really good skater."

The man behind Crazy Legs, Lezly Ziering, is, at 80, no ingénue. A former professional dancer, he was responsible for the skate nights at the Roxy (and held his skating wedding reception there). The rental skates at Crazy Legs have "Roxy" scrawled across them in marker. He sat behind a desk taking the \$10 entry fee. He was wearing purple jeans and had a chain around his neck with a silver roller skate

pendant. A braided ratail hung out of his purple cap. When Ziering saw the Bed-Stuy basketball court for the first time, he knew it was special.

"I walked in and said, 'Oh my God, this is it,'" he said. Ziering had to give up skating after an accident last year when he was coaching a women's roller derby team.

"A big buxom gal was skating backwards very fast and not looking," he said. "She blindsided me and broke my femur." He still teaches skating and has no plans to retire.

"I don't know what I'd do with myself."

Alcohol isn't served at Crazy Legs (there is enough falling without it), but there is a table where beverages, incense, roller-mix CDs and iridescent green hot pants are sold.

"Roller skating has a 10-year cycle," said Jim McMahon, executive director of Roller Skating Association International, a trade group of rink owners. "It rises to a peak and slowly goes down and rises. We're not on the peak; we're on the rising."

Still, be wary of asking a hard-core skater at Crazy Legs if this is some sort of comeback.

"Renaissance - that's crazy," said James Singley, 50. "What do you mean by that? It hasn't gone anywhere." □



Hayden Dunham is helped up after a fall at the Wednesday night dance party held by the Crazy Legs Skate Club, at the Bedford-Stuyvesant Salvation Army center in New York. As high rents helped close three New York City rinks in 2006 and 2007, the Crazy Legs has seen a diverse crowd of older roller skaters and new devotees come together.

(Yana Paskova/The New York Times)